

SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs

It takes the heart of a Warrior to find deception and take it down

- Stolenvalor.com

Back from Vacation to discover more of the same old stuff

Fresh from my summer vacation, I was not surprised to discover that nothing had changed in the progress of UFOlogical studies. Most of the blog entries I read are the same old recycled nonsense where highly speculative interpretation is important to perpetuate more UFO myths. However, there are some interesting developments in the area of skeptical investigations. I get hints now and then of people pursuing various cases but their work is still in process. You will have to wait until the authors reveal their information to read about them. Sorry to be such a tease on the matter.

Probably the biggest news came from the Reality Uncovered Blog, where a team of investigators led by Stephen Broadbent busted the infamous "source A" as nothing more than a pretender. There is an article on this issue that describes the sad tale of an individual who stooped as low as "stolen valor" to make his credentials seem impeccable. Based on the revelations it appears that it is a fact that Source "A" is a man named Richard Theilmann, who masqueraded as a Navy Lt. Commander. Amazingly, none of the heavy guns in UFOlogy seemed to notice or mention it. Maybe they did notice and chose not to comment. That is really a problem since it is up to UFOlogy to police itself. The more bad investigations and hoaxes that are accepted/promoted with no condemnation by those who are

"in charge", the less "scientific" UFOlogy appears. The silence of the "elite" UFOlogists simply encourages this kind of nonsense. One would think Kevin Randle, whose military service is very respectable, might mention it. After all, "Stolen valor" affects those who did serve and should be condemned. I know I would certainly not think of wearing medals or ribbons I was not authorized to wear. This guy wore medals of valor that demeaned the accomplishments of those that actually earned those medals.

Bruce Hutchinson informed me that UFO Updates is back on line to those who want to read for free. It is nice to see but after scanning the archives, I noticed nothing special was happening there. More of the usual arguing back and forth with little, if nothing, being accomplished. Of course, I can say the same for most discussion forums. They also seemed to miss any discussion about the Reality Uncovered investigation. Hmm...it gives you the impression that "Exopolitics" is something that is being accepted by those within UFOlogy.

As I put the finishing touches on this issue, I noticed the annual Roswell festival continues to draw people to that part of New Mexico. I am sure every Roswell/UFO investigator was there in an attempt to sell their books. I saw somebody called Roger Denis Denocla plugging a

book about the "Ummo civilization". I just shake my head when I see these kinds of things.

Finally, I received an e-mail concerning a case I briefly discussed in SUNlite 2-1. It involved a May 13, 1978 event described by a police officer in Kerman, California. The primary witness (he never signed his name but I assume this was who was contacting me) took issue with me calling his UFO sighting a rocket launch from Vandenberg AFB. You will find my discussion about this case on page 9.

P.S. Thanks to my readers for being patient with this issue's release date. My family event required my attention and took time away from SUNlite. I hope this issue meets my reader's expectations.

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But they don't land here. They only land in isolated places. They have taken people, I believe. They do have technology. Lord Hill Norton of the British Defense Staff said that he believed 23 people -- 23 species are coming. Because they don't want anything to do with us. I don't think we'll ever have a formal relationship, a formal contact with any alien species out there, especially after 9/11. When we broke our toys in the sandbox, if they were observing that, goodbye human race. And honestly, I don't think they're a mass threat, but I do believe they're breaking the law. I'm serious, Title 18, 1202. Read the Travis Walton story.

Cover: Richard Theilmann (AKA Source A) displaying the medals that he never earned. Read the rest of the story on page 10.

Left: On April 30th, Dan Aykroyd appeared on Larry King with a group of scientists discussing recent comments by Steven Hawking about aliens/UFOs. This was one section of the program where he sounded like a MUFON mouthpiece trying to cram as much as he could into a few seconds. My question is, "Does he really believe all of this nonsense?"

Kevin Randle presented a short article about fireballs and UFOs. He came to the conclusion that Dr. Hartmann's evaluation of the Zond IV incident probably explains the Chiles-Whitted event of 1948 as a misperceived fireball. He then goes on to wonder why the Kecksburg incident did not result in similar observations of the UFO. The Kecksburg fireball, which actually was visible over most of the northern Midwest was seen during the evening with a blue sky (not black). Because of this, the "airship effect" could not take effect. Had it happened at night, it is possible that some observers would have reported it like Zond IV. Randle also questioned why nobody bothered to look for meteorites in the Kecksburg area. The reason nobody went to Kecksburg to look for meteorites is that the astronomers who researched the event (by interviewing witnesses in 1965) and examined the two photographs, determined the actual flight path was towards southwest Ontario and not Pennsylvania. Astronomers go to where the data leads and not where some wild stories from a small town newspaper state.

The UFO chronicles reported a Phoenix lights witness going public. I would be more impressed if he got the time for his sighting correct. He states it was 9PM when the actual time for the event was 8-8:30PM. Just another witness claiming he saw a dark object that night. Either he thought he saw it (see last issue and the "airship effect") or he is just somebody stating "me too" for his moment in the limelight.

Forgetomori presented Andrés Duarte's article concerning videos presented by Yalcin Yalman from Turkey. I always wondered about these videos. To me, they looked like some sort of hoax but I could not figure out how. Promoted as "the most significant UFO videos of all time", they now appear to be one of those run of the mill UFO hoaxes. The spaceship turns out to be the windows on boats reflecting lights shot at extreme zoom. Just another case of "humans deceiving humans".

It is hard to believe that people like

Who's blogging UFOs?

Hot topics and varied opinions



to take spacecraft imagery and draw ridiculous conclusions. Recently somebody pointed me towards this video showing a strange object near the sun by the STEREO spacecraft. These satellites lead and trail the earth in it's orbit, to give a unique view of our sun. The individual notes that from one satellite, the object appears on the right side of the sun and for the other, it is on the left. Well, that is why they call it the Stereo spacecraft. Throughout the video, we never get to see the inner planet positions. There is good reason. The planet Mercury is in the exact location that could produce the effects seen. It took no great science to figure it out since the STEREO web site has a plot generator for any given day! Another case of somebody not having a clue or wanting to deceive people for notoriety.

While it really has nothing to do with UFOs (unless we are talking about ancient astronauts), Dennis Balthasar seemed to be questioning the known history of the pyramids. Reading his article, I wondered where he got some of his information. For instance, he states that the 2.5 million stones in the pyramid would have to be laid at a rate of 90 seconds every day for 30 years. I did the basic computations and I think he is

wrong. I figured the stones would have to be laid at a rate of about one block every 6 minutes but this is a minor point. How it can be done was discussed by Craig Smith in the June 1999 issue of Civil Engineering magazine. I think Balthasar has been watching the recent History channel series "Ancient Aliens" and got caught up in their nonsense. When he can start quoting Egyptologists Mark Lehner and Zahi Hawass to support these claims, it might be worth reading. Until then, he is just another fringe writer trying to make it appear somebody or something else built the pyramids.

Billy Cox's blog continues to sound like a UFOlogical parrot. I always wondered why a professional journalist would simply repeat what he is told by UFOlogists without even questioning

the sources. His latest included two very telling stories, "The elephant in the room" and "Ripping Bluebook a new one". In both cases he chooses to use the selective story telling by UFOlogists. In the "Elephant" story, he quotes the standard commentary by Maj. Gen. Wilfried De Brouwer regarding the 1991 F-16 chase over Belgium. What he did not discuss is the study done by Salmon and Gilmard for the Belgium Air Force in 1992. They examined the radar tapes and discovered a lot of the radar contacts had more to do with atmospheric conditions than UFOs. My guess is that Cox had never heard of this study because most UFOlogists don't like to discuss it. In the "ripping" story, Cox repeats a lot of the Hastings nonsense. Recent revelations by James Carlson and Walt Figel (see SUNlite 2-2 and 2-3), indicate that Hastings and Salas have taken liberties with the truth regarding the Malmstrom event. There are other cases, where Hastings has simply ignored or rationalized away evidence that indicates his conclusions (and his witnesses) are wrong. Cox's idea of journalistic research on the subject of UFOs is underwhelming.

Billy Cox then went on to discuss Jamie Havican's video of a satellite back in February. According to Devold, the UFO changed altitude in a flash as if in

Who's blogging UFOs? (Cont'd)

response to Havican flashing a light at it. However, the video does not show this and appears to be an exaggeration. It is almost as if Cox did not even bother to look at the video and accepted Havican's description as being factual. Is Cox that bad a reporter that he does not even in look into these things beyond what people tell him? I explained this as probably being a Cosmos satellite in the last issue of SUNlite.

Paul Kimball's blog made some commentary on the latest ex-politician (Henry McElroy), who discovered that flying saucers can get them publicity. Of course, some UFO proponents jumped on this guy's bandwagon because he tells a story they want to believe. Kimball points out that it is highly unlikely that a simple state legislator (from NH of all places) had access to document regarding an alien cover-up. His claim is just not credible but, for some reason, some UFO proponents find him believable. Kimball correctly points out that blindly accepting this nonsense places UFOlogy in a very negative light. It is just like the Contactees of the 50s.

Colin Bennett took a swipe at Exopolitics in the Reality Uncovered Blog. His article bears the unique title "Child brides from outer space". It sounds like a 1950s flashback. Needless to say, Bennett finds "exopolitics" a puzzling and exotic topic. His commentary would be overshadowed by the same blog's expose' on Source A.

Speaking of Exopolitics, it was revealed that Paola Leopizzi Harris suddenly recalled that Dr. Hynek told them that Carl Sagan remarked that "UFOs were real". This was never stated by Hynek publicly and her revealing this after Sagan and Hynek are deceased smells awful fishy. Call me skeptical but one might suggest that Harris is "slightly" biased in her recollections.

Magonia had an interesting IFO story from Sweden. Apparently, somebody saw a strange UFO with two discs and smoke trailing behind it. The solution was a medieval catapult being used to launch a barbe que grill for a local radio station. Apparently, the airborne objects that were launched were composed of several piec-

es of the grill, which produced the odd sighting. I never heard of this kind of IFO before. It just demonstrates that you can't eliminate any possibility when it comes to identifying a UFO.

James Carrion has now launched a new organization called, "The center for UFO truth". James believes that the UFO phenomena seems to have been created by the US government as some sort of "cold war deception" and continues to be used as such today. I always have a problem with those that use the word "truth" in any title because it normally turns out not to be the truth or that person's personal version of the truth. This happens far too often when it comes to UFOs (proponents and skeptics alike). I wish Mr. Carrion luck and I just hope he does not rely on the same kind of innuendo/cherry picking used so often with Roswell to confirm his suspicions about UFOs and the government. Maybe he will discover something new but I am not holding my breath.

His blog posting stirred up several individuals, who really do not like Mr. Carrion and he responded to their comments in another blog posting called, "Blasphemy will get you stoned". In all of his years in UFOlogy, I would think he would have expected this kind of thing. One can not rock the boat and not expect to be tossed overboard. In this case, instead of a life jacket, they threw him an anchor.

Chris Rutkowski penned an interesting commentary called "The demise of UFOlogy". Mr. Rutkowski's comments are what you would expect. He complains that nobody is really in charge of UFOlogy, there are no standards for research/investigations, just about anything is accepted because it reinforces peoples beliefs about UFOs, and the Memberships of MUFON/CUFOS aren't really interested. At least that is how I interpreted his comments. Of course, this is nothing new and it has been the problem with UFOlogy for decades. I am just curious when somebody will step forward and take charge of the mess that is UFOlogy. When that happens (and I sincerely doubt it will be allowed to happen - see James Carrion as an example), then UFOlogy will become something more than a fringe subject dis-

cussed widely on the Internet.

Joe Capp still seems to think a lot about using night vision to capture UFOs. His recent discussion has somebody videotaping formations of lights that change position relative to each other. Apparently, some have suggested he is just recording geese (or other birds) with his night vision equipment. The cameraman claims that geese could not possibly be the source. This results in a long-winded tirade about "electrogravitics" instead of describing how he measured 40 degrees of travel. Looking at the video, I could not identify constellations meaning he was using some sort of narrow field of view, which brings into question his 40 degree measurement.

I can't tell what he has in these low quality videos but the lights are definitely independent of each other. My biggest problem with all of this is that these people still do not understand their equipment. For some reason they keep saying they are recording heat signatures. What they are doing is recording all the wavelengths of light being amplified (including the infrared spectrum). There is no way to tell if that light is solely due to an infrared signature/heat the way a thermal imager does.

The UFO Examiner lists many UFO reports but his commentary about the fourth of July was interesting. Apparently, he only becomes skeptical about UFO reports around the fourth of July and spring break. What about when the ISS is making evening passes, during meteor showers, and during other astronomical events (i.e. Venus greatest brilliancy, Jupiter/Mars oppositions, etc.)? It is almost as if he is not interested in these things as potential sources for his raw UFO reports. To quote Allan Hendry's UFO Handbook, *...for a field that is composed of individuals who profess to be intrigued by aerial anomalies, there is a widespread ignorance about even the most basic characteristics of sources like meteors, ad planes, and balloons. This ignorance is likely to be a deliberate SUPPRESSION by each UFO researcher, for reasons that are reflected in the motives they demonstrate for their involvement with UFOs...This emotional predisposition inevitably proves to be a poor framework for the objective handling of raw sighting reports.*

The Roswell Corner

Bensen Saler adds his thoughts on Roswell

Actually, Dr. Saler made his thoughts known in 1997 when he teamed with Charles Moore and Charles Ziegler to write the book: Roswell: Genesis of a modern myth. Paul Kimball was kind enough to present his interviews with Dr. Saler back in 2001 in audio format. He pretty much rehashed what was in the book but it is interesting to hear him discuss the Roswell storytelling and those involved with investigating the case.

Bragalia's take on the San Augustin crash site

I thought the only person still stuck on the Barney Barnett story and the San Augustin crash was Stanton Friedman. Bragalia spins his usual take on the matter trying to resurrect Barnett's story and make it sound credible. He then goes on to refer to a Doctor Herbert Dick as a liar. Dr. Dick was interviewed in the early 1990s and supposedly told researchers that he knew nothing about a UFO crash and, if he had, he would have told them. Bragalia points out that Dick stated in a 1947 document that he was on the plains of San Augustin between July 1 and 14th of that year. This implies that Dick was lying about being present at the UFO crash. The document states nothing about a UFO crash and only describes performing a dig in the area. One can easily point out that Dick only stated that he was not present at any ET craft recovery.

More second hand stories from "Firemen"

Mr. Bragalia continued his Roswell stories with news that various firemen stationed at Roswell were involved in the spaceship recovery. Does he provide documentation to prove this? Not exactly. He provides the affidavit of Robert Proctor, who mentions that one individual on the flight to Fort Worth stated they had debris from an alien spaceship.

This individual also happened to be part of the base fire department/rescue team.

The rest of Bragalia's article has more to do with second hand information from various people who knew somebody that was part of the fire department or other such nonsense. He ignores how Walter Haut stated to researchers back in the 1980s (before Roswell was something really special) that he was unaware of any unusual activity on base:

"Were you aware at the time of the recovery effort itself?" asked Schmitt.

"No, I was not."

"So there was no activity on the base which indicated that....." said Schmitt.

"Not that was known to the average people. Carry this one step further. It was never mentioned in a staff meeting. And I used to sit in all the staff meetings." (UFO crash at Roswell p. 142)

One would think the use of the RAAF fire department off base MIGHT be mentioned at the staff meetings. For some reason, it was not.

When Bragalia produces some actual records of the base fire department responding to the "crash", I will be impressed. Until then, it is the usual rumor mill presented as some sort of fact.

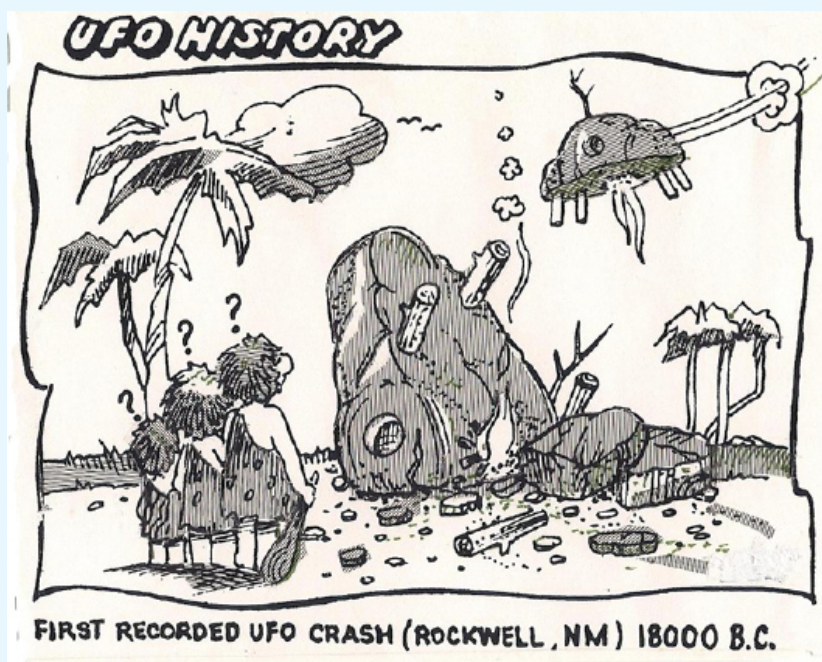
Politics as usual?

Bragalia's next article describes how politicians keep dropping hints

about the ET presence and Roswell. His prize find was a photo of Hillary Clinton walking around with a book called "Are we alone". If Roswell was such a cornerstone of the conspiracy, shouldn't she be carrying "Witness to Roswell" or some other book of great Roswell importance? Bragalia is making mountains out of ant hills. Of course this is UFOlogy, where just about anything can be accepted as fact as long as it supports aliens and conspiracies.

14% of Randle's readers think the Alien Autopsy film is possibly real in some way!

Kevin Randle seemed shocked that 14% (78/544) of his readers thought the "Alien Autopsy" film had something "real" or "authentic" in it. One would think that Mr. Randle should know it is very hard to let go of cherished beliefs. He would not let go of Frank Kaufmann for over a decade until it was proven categorically that he was lying. Before that, a great many people had expressed doubts in Frank Kaufmann but Kevin Randle defended him in several of his books. On page 269 of his book, Conspiracy of Silence, he would state, "For those who don't believe the testimony, they should initiate their own search...What they will find is that Kaufmann is telling the truth." Some of his readers are just taking a page from his book. That being to accept what they want as the truth despite being presented with evidence that it is not.



Cartoon courtesy of Matt Graeber

On April, 14th (about 10PM local time), a bright fireball was seen over several northern mid-western states (mostly Iowa and Wisconsin). It was recorded by several security cameras and a state trooper's dash camera. While many people understood the event, it is interesting to see how various individuals filed UFO reports to the various groups.

MUFON had two reports made shortly after the event. The first came from Iowa where the witness saw the flashes of light from the fireball as he was sitting in his recliner watching TV. His first thought was he had seen a plane crash just beyond the tree line and proceeded to call family members. When his mother informed him that people were reporting it as a meteor, he seemed to dismiss this possibility:

I dont know anything about stars and metours and things of that nature but what i seen couldnt fly diagonally with out hitting the ground near by if it was falling from the sky i told my mom that what i seen had to hit the ground in the woods near my home it couldnt travel at that angle without that happening.¹

It is interesting to note that he claimed no knowledge about astronomy but then used that lack of knowledge to convince himself he had seen something spectacular!

After seeing some odd lights in the distance, he felt there was something spooky happening and was afraid to go in the woods. He would eventually write:

I dont want to be a crack pot but what I seen is real and what I seen i can not explain please help me figure out or atleast set my mind at ease on what I might have seen because a metour dosent do what happened.²

Again, he claims it could not be a meteor even though he doesn't know much about meteors.

The second report sent to MUFON was from Missouri. These observers thought it landed only a short distance away near the airport. This is a common error made with most fireball events. It just demonstrates how worthless estimates of distance, altitude, and size are when observing lights at night.

Midwest fireball produces UFO reports



Frame grabs from an on-line video of the fireball event recorded by a police car's dash camera

NUFORC had eleven reports that surrounded the impact area of southwestern Wisconsin. One report came from as far south as St. Louis. Many described a fireball and all had the time between 2159 and 2215. Despite this and the fact that meteorites were recovered, Peter Davenport chose to list all but one as "unidentified". He only commented on one as a probable fireball!

As expected, estimates of distance and altitude were often inaccurate. Some thought the object landed only a few miles away. In one case, the witness reported the meteorite must have fallen in a flooded field near Moline, Illinois even though he noted that the local news stated it was much farther away.

Two of these reports were most interesting. The first came from Rochester, Minnesota:

...Just as I was thinking "huh, that's weird," a blue ball of light soared over the clouds low over my backyard, from east to west. I didn't know it was a ball of light until it went over a part of the sky where the clouds broke up.

Right after, there was lightning. I tried to think it was just part of the lightning, but the object in question didn't flash, just glowing and passed over swiftly. It didn't make any noise. It had an aura about it, and emanated light all around it, but you could tell the

shape was spherical.

I just sat there with my jaw dropped. I kept trying to rationalize what it was. I entertained the thought it was a meteor about to hit the earth, and sat there waiting for the ground to shake. Nothing happened, though.

...I have no idea what it was that I saw. I only know that it was an unidentified flying object.³

The witness appears to have made some errors. Assuming they are describing the fireball, it would have been south east of their position. I assume that the witness made a direction switch when filing their report or may just not know their cardinal points. Additionally, the use of a term like it having an "aura" about the meteor is sort of an exaggeration by the witness. While the witness thinks it was "unidentified" to them, the fact remains that this was most likely the same bright fireball seen by so many people that night.

Another report came from Odgensburg, Wisconsin. The witness seems to have added a few details that probably did not occur:

..I was standing on the North end of our house facing south when we witnessed what appeared to be at first to be a shooting star. My second thought was an aircraft coming down on fire, but the speed was too fast for an aircraft.

Then I noticed that it was quite large. Much larger than any star I had ever seen. Not as large as the moon, but absolutely not a plane or helicopter. It had a greenish color to it with a dark area in the middle. It arced in the sky heading to the south east, and then appeared to be falling to the earth when it suddenly disappeared.

...Can sighting be explained as any conventional man-made or natural object? Possibly either

Views on UFOs, before and after sighting Always skeptical about UFO's, but cannot rule out the possibility that they exist.⁴

The note at the end added by witnesses always makes me smile. It is almost like they are trying to convince the reader and themselves that they 'don't believe' in UFOs/alien spaceships.

Fireballs are an excellent example in understanding how people file UFO reports against a known source. The process of how people misperceive known events should be understood by all UFOlogists. The problem is that many ignore this data and will continue to blindly accept reports of distance, size, and speed as highly accurate.

Notes and references

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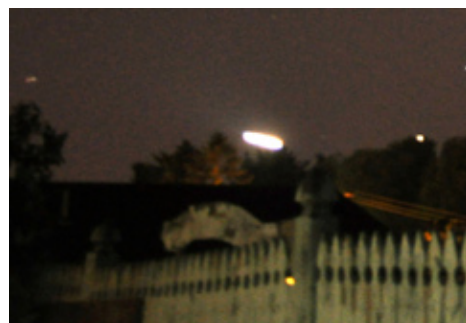
Will the Perseids and other meteor showers produce UFO reports?

In early to mid-August, the annual Perseid meteor shower becomes active with a peak on August 12-13. In addition to the Perseids, there are many other minor meteor showers contributing to the show. The warm summer nights also get the casual and, sometimes, inexperienced sky watchers out under the night sky. They will be exposed to quite a display. The Perseids themselves often produce bright fireballs. As one can see in the previous article, fireballs are different than the standard "shooting star" and some observers tend to think this indicates they can not be a meteor but something else. Some of the fireballs can become so bright they cast shadows on the ground. I remember one Perseid watch where we saw two of these "shadow casters" within a few minutes of each other!

In addition to bright fireballs, the casual sky watcher will probably be exposed to passes by the International Space Station (ISS), Iridium flares, scintillating stars, and bright planets (Venus in the evening and Jupiter in the morning). Sky watchers, who are unfamiliar with these events, might also confuse them for UFOs. It will be interesting to see what kinds of reports are filed to MUFON and NUFORC during this time period. I will keep my eye on it. Will MUFON or NUFORC?



A bright Perseid meteor flashes in the night.



The landing lights of a plane (Left) and Venus (Right). When the lights are seen head-on from a distance, they look similar

UFO closes airport in China

On July 7th, an airport near Hangzhou shutdown because of a report about a UFO being seen hovering over the airport. Initially, the videos showed various clips of the progress rocket launch over a week prior to this. Then photographs were presented that appeared to be a time exposure of a helicopter with a spotlight. Many of these photographs were debunked in the UFO Casebook forum by "elevenaugust" (see reply #19).

As the details leaked out, it seems that an airliner coming in for landing around 8:40PM saw the UFO. The reported it and the Air Traffic Controllers saw a radar contact. Of course, this brings into play Phil Klass UFOlogical principle #9 (*Whenever a light is sighted in the night skies that is believed to be a UFO and this is reported to a radar operator, who is asked to search his scope for an unknown target, almost invariably an "unknown" target will be found. Conversely, if an unusual target is spotted on a radarscope at night that is suspected of being a UFO, an observer is dispatched or asked to search for a light in the night sky, almost invariably a visual sighting will be made*).

James Oberg informed me that the pilots of the plane were possibly heading to the airport from the southeast. If so, this meant the UFO hovering over the airport was to the northwest/west. A prime candidate was in the western sky that evening, Venus. Too bad nobody took a photograph of the UFO so it could be verified. Apparently, the officials at the airport jumped the gun. It is better to be safe than sorry when it comes to air safety so I can understand why they redirected flights. However, because of this caution, this case now will enter UFO folklore as some exotic event instead of just another potential misidentification.

SUNlite “naysayer” part of Texas MUFON controversy

Imagine my surprise when I received an E-mail stating I was famous (or in this case infamous) with Texas MUFON. Apparently, Don Cherry had a rather nasty presentation at his May MUFON meeting, where he criticized many individuals associated with the Stephenville event of 2008. During the meeting, he passed out a printed version of my web page on the subject as a “critique” of the investigation. I don’t really care that he did but one would think he might have contacted me about it.

Apparently, some MUFON members did not appreciate the comments by Cherry. As a result, a video showed up on YouTube criticizing Cherry et.al. I was called a “debunker” and “naysayer”. I guess that is par for the course in UFOlogy. It is easier to put labels on people than actually discuss the data.

I also watched the 11 part video clip (which was really an audio clip) of Don Cherry’s presentation and thought I would mention the highlights:

1. A lot of wild stories were being told and were being accepted by individuals like Bill Birnes. They were quite exotic and really not believable. Ricky Sorrells seemed to be one of those story tellers. According to Cherry, he demanded a “breeding cow” at one point. It makes you wonder about the integrity of the witness, when they ask for money, fame, or cows.
2. Angelina Joiner has made a name for herself as being a reporter who wanted to tell the whole story about Stephenville. Cherry states she was nothing more than a part-time reporter/substitute teacher working at the paper. She was able to write the initial story about the Stephenville event and that sold a lot of papers. She then tried to investigate the case further and wanted to publish the Ricky Sorrells story. The editor apparently questioned the source and did not want to publish UFO stories all the time. He eventually relented to her “begging” (Cherry’s words) to



The bright anti-collision strobe on the top of the tail fin on an F-16 (from USAF website)

allow the story to be published. The guy turned into a media star thanks to this and Angelina Joiner became a hero in UFOlogy. She now has some sort of radio/podcast program. UFOs do pay after all and I am sure it beats being a part-time reporter and substitute teacher.

3. According to Cherry, these F-16 pilot reservists are strictly 8-5 workers and would never fly at night. As demonstrated by the last ten years, reservists play a vital role in our combat forces. For them to arrive in a combat area with absolutely no experience flying at night would make them useless as pilots and endanger those who do have experience. Cherry’s statements regarding the activity of the jets seem to be completely out of touch with real military operations.

So many people complained about Cherry’s little program that he was apparently canned by MUFON. This is no great surprise and he should have expected it.



F-16 activity (plots not exact) around Stephenville between 6 and 7 PM on January 8, 2008 (data from MUFON’s Stephenville radar data report)

Stephenville abridged

My web page describes how there really was not much to do with the Stephenville event except a lot of F-16 activity. The primary witness for this event was Steve Allen, who made the following report to the NUFORC:

On 1-8-2008 at 6:15 pm cst. my friends and I was watching the sunset when several strobes or flashing lights coming from the east at about 3500 foot agl heading west toward Stephenville, Tx.. Estimated speed was about 2000 to 3000 mph. The strobes made several changes of flash patterns and configurations. The flight duration lasted about 3 minutes. The front two strobes was about 1/2 mile apart and the back ones was about 1 mile back from the front strobes. The back side of the flashing lights came to a verticle flashing. Then there was 2 seperate vertical flames about 1/4 mile apart for several seconds and the craft was gone. We never heard ANY noise from the craft! They headed west towards Abilene, TX. Then about 10 minutes later here came the craft again with 2 jets chasing. They was headed east towards South Ft. Worth, TX, at about 4000 ft. agl. The jets was unable to catch and went off into the distance at FULL throttle...!

To the lower left, you will see a map showing Allen’s location (Yellow marker) and the routes taken by 8 F-16s that night. The Blue was for a group of four jets between 6:10 and 6:20 PM. The red is for another group of four about 10 minutes later. The Green is a track for two F-16s returning to Fort Worth at 6:50-7PM. The tail of each F-16 had a bright anticollision beacon (see the USAF photo above). It seems extremely probable that Allen saw the strobes from one of the groups of four F-16s heading towards the Brownwood Military Operating Area (MOA). The two returning F-16s were NOT flying at “full throttle” and not pursuing anything according to the radar data.

In my opinion, it is more likely that most of the UFO reports made that night are associated with the F-16 activity in and around the Brownwood MOA and less likely to do with an alien spacecraft of some kind.

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A new amateur astronomer and UFOs myth

In a recent Chris Rutkowski blog entry, he once again argued about why amateur astronomers don't report more UFOs. This is nothing new as it seemed to repeat much of the same old stuff he has made before but he did present another point that he thinks explains this issue.

Before he got to the meat of his argument, Rutkowski once again, presented, as his prize example, an amateur astronomer friend of his who performs astrophotography from his desk away from his telescope. I have no doubt that the gentleman does excellent astrophotography, as so many amateurs do these days, but it is not a representative sample of amateur astronomers and is highly misleading. If one were to accept Mr. Rutkowski's example as representative of all amateur astronomers, I would conclude that we all sat around drinking beer while our computers did our astronomy for us. It is the same thing as me saying that, based on a few examples of recent UFO stories, all UFO witnesses are liars. I don't believe that and never would suggest it.

Chris Rutkowski also mentioned that any alien spaceships entering earth orbit probably would not be detected by any of the telescopes doing sky surveys for Near Earth Objects (NEOs) because of the advanced technology being employed. If this is the case how can the casual observer be able to see them. . This kind of reasoning reminds me of the quote by Richard Feynman, *"I think that it is much more likely that the reports of flying saucers are the result of the known irrational characteristics of terrestrial intelligence rather than the unknown rational efforts of extra-terrestrial intelligence."*

Mr. Rutkowski main argument is that amateur astronomers probably miss UFOs because they are not looking for them or just don't notice them. His support for this claim is a study where people are told to concentrate on one item and then miss something obvious. It is called inattention blindness. The problem with this argument is that he implies that each and every astronomer suffers from this malady but the general public does not. This is why the general public can report

all these UFOs and astronomers seem to miss them. However, the experiment described by Daniel Simmons only resulted in 50% failure recognition rate. Therefore, one can not state that amateur astronomers always miss UFOs because of "inattention blindness".

If Rutkowski is suggesting that the truly unidentified objects are simple nocturnal lights that are no brighter than the average star, then I can see how they might be missed. However, I don't think this is the case looking at the reports and statistics. The "average" UFO is obvious enough to see by the casual observer, which means it must be brighter than the average star. UFO events also average around 3-10 minutes. Finally, people often report seeing details in those UFO reports that are unexplainable. This indicates a significant angular size (probably full moon size or larger).

I have made this comment before but it bears repeating. Amateur astronomers have a problem with bright lights/objects that are flying around. If these UFOs are bright, they will not go unnoticed contrary to what Rutkowski states.

This is all part of a new amateur astronomer UFO myth (See SUNlite 1-2) that I refer to as the "tunnel vision" myth. What Mr. Rutkowski (as well as most UFOlogists) ignores (or chooses not to mention) is that in all of the star parties that occur year round in the United States (and elsewhere in the world), I am unaware of any UFO sightings being reported. These are collections of hundreds of amateur astronomers in one location. Many are highly experienced like his friend who performs astrophotography from his desk. However, these individuals are out observing the sky in dark locations. Do all of these people in one place suffer from "tunnel vision" too?

Another item ignored/not mentioned are the public star parties that occur on a weekly/monthly basis with many astronomy clubs/planetariums. These are collections of amateurs and ordinary people (who do not suffer from "tunnel vision") looking at the sky. My local astronomy

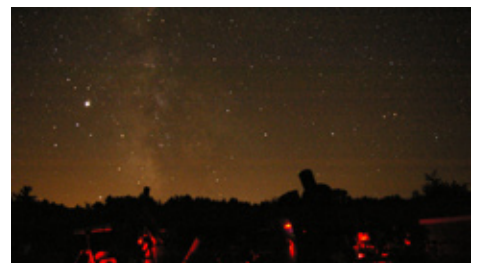


An organized 1988 Marswatch at the Orlando Science Center. Nobody saw UFOs but hundreds of people got to see Mars up close through my telescope (pictured) and others (background).

club performs several sky watches every month for various groups. Sky and Telescope reported such an event at the Tanglewood festival that involved some 5,000 people being able to look through telescopes! Of course, nobody saw any UFOs.

In my opinion, both types of star parties bust the "tunnel vision" myth because there would be at least one person in these large collections of people/astronomers, who would see one of these UFOs and report it. Had a "true" UFO occurred, I would expect every telescope within earshot of the report would have swung towards the object to see what it was. The lack of any such report demonstrates the "tunnel vision" myth is no better than the other myths I discussed in my previous article on the subject (See SUNlite 1-2).

This kind of explanation begs for an experiment. Perhaps a "Chinese lantern" could be launched near a star party/sky watch and then see if anybody notices. I am confident that if I were to do this at our local observatory, the response to the test would be quick. Some of the comments probably would not be very friendly. Maybe I will give it a try with a model UFO sporting a bright red light instead of a white one.



There is a reason for the lack of bright lights in this photograph of a local astronomy get together. Imagine what would happen if a bright light suddenly appeared overhead and disrupted the nights viewing.

May 13th, 1978: Rocket launch or UFO?

Back in SUNlite 2-1, I made brief mention of an old UFO case that was being presented on the internet. It involved a police officer who reported seeing a UFO one morning while on patrol. He then reported receiving a sunburn from this UFO. After checking the records of rocket launches from Vandenberg Air Force Base, I had discovered that there was a rocket launch at almost the same time the witness reported seeing his UFO. Since the police officer stated it was seen to the south and southeast, it was no great effort to suggest the UFO was the rocket launch.

Primary Witness complains

On June 17th, I received two e-mails from, what appeared to be the primary witness. He claimed that I ignored the testimony of all the other eyewitnesses and then told me that I was wrong about the time of the rocket launch. He added that he ALWAYS checked his facts before making a comment because he was a retired police officer.

The facts of the matter

Well, I like to check facts as well and I was curious as to how I could have gotten them wrong. Mr. Amparano claimed that the launch of the Atlas was at 10:34 PM on the 13th and not 3:34 AM. However, he did not understand that the 10:34 time was UTC (also called GMT). I pointed out to him that 10:34 UTC translates to 3:34 AM PDT. So, I DID get the facts right about the launch time.

His other concern is that I did not address all the other eyewitness testimony. The problem with this testimony is it is very spotty. His first witness was to the northwest of Kerman, who saw a UFO at 2:30 AM. That can not be really linked to an event that happened an hour later without establishing they were the same object. The other witness was somebody working in a field that reported they saw a UFO to the northeast sometime between 3 and 4 AM. Again, attempting to link the

two is tenuous. The witness was eight miles to the west of Kerman (according to the UFO examiner's article) and a sighting to the northeast does not align at all to the Amparano sighting (who was on the southern edge of Kerman). He did not report it going towards the east in the direction of Amparano either. While these witnesses are interesting, one has a difficult time stating that they all saw the same object.

The sunburn issue

The cornerstone of this being something inexplicable is the sunburn received by Mr. Amparano. However, there is absolutely no evidence that proves the UFO caused his sunburn. Being that the events happened in California during late spring, is it possible the sunburn came from some other source?

The Amparano report

Mr. Amparano's report (as documented in the Fresno Bee on February 23, 1979) stated he was at the junction of Del Norte and California heading south when he saw the UFO at "tree-top level". To him it appeared as a "round fireball" about 100-150 feet off the ground. When he attempted to put a spotlight on it, it moved in a "square turn" and back towards the southeast. The entire event lasted a few minutes.

In his e-mail to me he kept stating that the object moved to the northwest and hovered. I pointed out to him that he never mentioned the northwest direction or "hovering" in the 1979 Fresno Bee article. Perhaps he meant that the UFO rose in an upward direction (NW direction?), stopped (hovered), and then headed southeast. That description is fairly consistent with a sighting of a distant rocket launch.

The rocket launch

The rocket launch of May 13, 1978 involved an Atlas launch vehicle from



Vandenberg AFB at 1034 UTC/GMT (3:34 AM PDT), which coincides with the same approximate time given by Amparano (3:32 AM PDT). The satellite was launched into an orbit with an inclination of 63.6 degrees. This means the rocket would probably be launched towards the south and southeast (the above trajectory is an estimate and not the exact path). Looking at the sighting lines (south and towards the southeast) reported by Amparano in the 1979 Fresno Bee article, we see that there is a reasonable match. The distance to the launch site was about 150 miles. The actual trajectory was further away but it is not unheard of to see rocket launches from that distance at night. I remember seeing a rocket launch from the Florida Keys back in the late 1980s during a Winter Star party. The distance involved was very similar to what we see in this case.

Case closed?

This is not a situation where I would conclusively state it as "case closed". Considering the direction of the sighting and that it happened at nearly the same time as the launch, it appears that the rocket launch is a very likely suspect.



A January 1979 Delta rocket launch from Cape Canaveral, which I photographed from Orlando, Florida. Note the red color and "fireball" effect. Was this what was seen that morning?

An Exopolitics nightmare



Is this "mover and shaker" really Source A?

I originally requested that Stephen Broadbent write this article but circumstances arose that prevented him from completing it on time. I want to make it clear that all of what I am about to write about is based on the work of those at "Reality Uncovered" that they have published and not mine.

On May 20, 2010, the Reality Uncovered blog revealed some earth shattering news. A team of their investigators had revealed the identity of somebody referred to as "Source A".

<http://www.realityuncovered.net/blog/2010/05/ufology-exopolitics-special-source-a-exposed/>

Prior to this, I was not familiar with the story. My guess is that unless people were deeply involved in the "exopolitics" crowd, they would be unfamiliar with Source A as well.

Who or what is "source A"?

This was my first question when I read the original article. I decided to go to the king of Exopolitics, Michael Salla. His blog entry of December 28, 2009 pretty much summarized what "source A" told various people:

One source claiming to have participated in face-to-face meetings is a serving U.S. Navy officer that in February 2008 revealed the existence of a confiden-

tial set of meetings at the UN where UFOs and extra-terrestrial life were discussed. Known as Source A, the Navy officer claims that he was sanctioned by a working group comprising a number of admirals to disclose the UN talks without revealing his identity. In June 2008, Source A claims he was assigned to another project that involved direct meetings with two groups of extraterrestrials in a covert project where he was sanctioned to board their spacecraft on three different occasions. One group is a Reptilian looking species, and another is a silicon based life form he dubbed the 'Conformers'.

This author and a number of other researchers have met with and interviewed Source A, and have been able to confirm that he is a serving U.S. Navy officer. Recently, two New York based UFO investigators, Clay and Shawn Pickering, gave a three hour interview concerning Source A's involvement in a covert project involving face-to-face meetings with extra-terrestrial life. They revealed that a covert inter-services working group has attempted to brief President Obama about the extraterrestrial liaison project. Given Source A's identity and unlikelihood that more senior U.S. Navy officials would sanction a serving officer to openly misinform the general public over extraterrestrial life, there is reason to take his claims of participating in a covert project involving face-to-face meetings very seriously.'

Apparently, there was a significant group of individuals, who found this story credible. In my opinion, it was an outrageous story that did not sound credible.

Source A is exposed

The big break came when a photograph was presented that was supposedly taken by Source A in the "Open Minds forum" on April 9th. According to the forum posting, Source A had been to a very important briefing by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) himself. The meeting was highly secretive and required people to be "vetted" prior to being admitted.

It did not take long for the forum's former co-administrator "Jeddyhi" (actual name of "John") to discover that what really happened was the admiral was engaged in a public speaking event at the New York Athletic Club for the New York Council of the Navy League. It was not secretive at all and anybody willing to pay the fee was able to attend. It seemed there were serious problems with Source A's description of events!

Reality Uncovered went into action and began to look at the submitted image and comparing the position of the photograph with those present at the event. Fortunately, the Navy League had posted many photographs of the event and it did not take long for "John" and Reality Uncovered member, Andy Murray to identify the most likely suspects. They quickly narrowed the list to three and then had Reality Uncovered co-owner, Ryan Dube contact Bruce Maccabee who had met Source A. He quickly identified the individual in the above photograph. It did not take long for Andy to look through the New York Naval Order Commandery



Andy Murray



Ryan Dube



Why is this guy smiling?

photographs to discover who Source A was. He was a man named Richard Theilmann.

Who is Richard Theilmann?

With a name, the team begin to check up on Richard Theilmann. This search produced some rather interesting results.

It was discovered that Richard was the brother of Robert Theilmann. Robert was a Lt. Colonel, who honorably served in the US Marine Corps as a helicopter pilot. Unfortunately, in 2003, Robert died in a tragic helicopter accident. He is now buried in Arlington National Cemetery. While it did not prove Richard was a naval officer, it indicated that the Theilmann family had ties to the military.

Further research demonstrated that Mr. Theilmann was something of an extrovert. He had his own "My Space" page, which revealed a lot about the man.

Reality Uncovered spent some time discussing the man's sexual side presented in this source. While it was "interesting", I did not think it was that big a deal. In today's society, where all sorts of sexual behavior is tolerated, it is a bit hard to get worked up about a guy who likes to play games as a sex slave.

What was more important is this man's military credentials. According to the Pickerings, Theilmann was a Navy officer, who had served since 1968. However, he is listed as being born in 1953, which would make him 15 in 1968. Most Naval Officers are all college graduates and it is highly unlikely a fifteen-year old could

have been an active duty officer or enlisted man at that age.

Theilmann listed his rank as a Lieutenant Commander (LCDR), which is a respectable mid-level officer grade but not that important a rank. Reality Uncovered member, "Access denied" pointed out that a LCDR could not stay in the navy for forty years as claimed. He would have been "passed over" for promotion too many times. However, I also noted that he listed his education on the "My Space" page as "some college". I brought this up with several people and noted that no college graduate, who worked for a degree is going to say they had "some college". Therefore, it seems likely he never received a degree making him a Navy commissioned officer unlikely.

There was another possibility that I pointed out to Stephen Broadbent. I suggested that maybe Theilmann was a "Mustang". This was a common term used to describe a person in the Navy's Limited Duty Officer (LDO) program. This is a path for very talented senior enlisted men to obtain a commission. Perhaps Theilmann was this kind of officer and might help explain his claim to having forty years of naval experience with only having attended "some college". So, it still seemed possible that Theilmann was an officer as claimed but there was something I saw that I found disturbing.

I was more surprised to see Theilmann sporting a chest full of medals (see cover image and below). I served twenty plus years and did some rather important things but I only had five medals to my credit (the last being received on my retirement!). Theilmann appeared to be wearing some rather impressive medals, which included a Bronze star and Purple heart! These kinds of medals are not "giv-

en away" to some simple officer. Clearly, Mr. Theilmann must have some sort of track record that could be traced for such heroics.

A tangled web

Further news came from Theilmann's description of his efforts following the Hurricane Katrina disaster. Theilmann told the Pickerings that he volunteered to go down as part of a military contingent sent to the Superdome, where he was involved in finding rapists. However, the news media reported that no such thing actually happened. Also contradicting these stories is the fact that Theilmann was in Houston to help there as a volunteer for his church, St. Mary the Virgin. It appeared that Mr. Theilmann was having difficulty telling the truth and tended to exaggerate his involvement in events.

Another situation that made people begin to question Theilmann's military service was how he had heart surgery but required his wife's health insurance to pay for it. Active and retired military officers all have the benefit of some sort of health coverage that should pay for such an operation. If the story about using his wife's health insurance to pay for his operation were accurate then the claim of being an active duty or retired officer began to look like an exaggeration.

Further evidence began to mount on Theilmann's lack of military career. Reality Uncovered discovered that he had been working in the civilian sector since 1995. A military officer, who was entrusted with such responsibilities as being an ET representative, would not dream of

moonlighting as a "computer repair technician" or attempting to start up his own business.

A final problem was that his high school graduation year from North-



A chest full of deception. These medals should have been a red flag for most people.

port High school was 1971. Some of the medals that Theilmann wore had to do with Vietnam. Since the United States involvement in Vietnam terminated in 1973, it seemed unlikely he would have served there. It seemed that Richard Theilmann was not who he claimed to be.

Exopolitics responds

Michael Salla went after Reality Uncovered and pointed out that Theilmann was able to meet Dr. Bruce Maccabee at his offices in the US Naval Warfare center in Virginia. Dr. Maccabee had pointed out that visitors could not just walk into his offices without an escort. To Salla, this proved that Theilmann must have been in the military or have credentials that allowed him access to these offices.

It was pointed out that gaining access to classified offices is not that difficult for individuals that know how. A former naval officer (assuming Theilmann was that) might have access to the base and, possibly, Dr. Maccabee's offices. I am not sure what level classification and security Dr. Maccabee worked under but I recall my time at Nuclear Power School and Submarines. Submarines were easy to control since there was only one access point. Nuclear power school was more challenging. There were many students/staff coming and going with security badges. Despite having several individuals checking these badges, there were instances where people were able to get through (as part of a test). So, there is never a sure fire way of preventing access to a low level security area (Nuclear power school was only "confidential").

In an effort to clarify the situation, Ryan Dube contacted Dr. Maccabee about the level of security required to get into his offices. Maccabee mentioned that Theilmann did not have an escort but he did have an appointment with him. This meant that the gate would have at least given Theilmann a visitor's pass to get on the facility to make this appointment! He could not recall if Theilmann wore a visitor's pass or not. Dr. Maccabee's then revealed that the security level for his offices were not that significant:

*He certainly did not need a high level clearance to have an unclassified visit with me.*²



This statement tended to destroy the idea that Theilmann was somebody who had access to classified information.

As an ex-military member, I would love to believe that security for our facilities were airtight but people can obtain access to them. The lower the security level, the easier it is to bypass security measures.

Loose threads

With blood in the water, Reality Uncovered's investigative sharks began a feeding frenzy. Theilmann's military records were the key. There were a lot of reasons to question his service but I still felt he must have been an LDO at one point. This would explain how he could have become involved with the New York Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States.

Reality Uncovered sent their investigator "Wormwood" to see if they could discover any details about Theilmann's military career. A quick check with the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) revealed that they had no record of Richard Theilmann, which meant he did not serve in the military. This might be explained as a technical glitch/SNAFU and the records might be lost or misplaced. However, in light of what had been revealed to that date, this possibility seemed remote.

Stephen Broadbent would also add that he had been in contact with members of

Theilmann family. They revealed to him that Theilmann never served and he was a fraud:

*....to put it bluntly, they are disgusted with him. They say that Richard has never served in the US Navy or any other part of the United States military and they go on to claim that he has suffered from a certain medical condition that makes serving in the military impossible. They have been aware of his irresponsible behavior for many years, but seeing him wearing someone else's medals in a uniform he has no right to wear, appears to have been the straw that broke the camels back.*³

I was shocked. How could Theilmann manage to fool the Naval Order of the United States into thinking he was LCDR and wear some rather impressive medals to their functions? Apparently it was not too hard. There seemed to be no reason for the organization to question the resume' he presented to the organization.

The answer to this puzzle seemed to be answered in a follow-up blog posting when Broadbent revealed that they checked more sources for any record of Richard Theilmann serving in the military. After a rather extensive check that included Veteran's administration and Bureau of Naval Personnel, it became apparent that Theilmann never served.

Reality Uncovered also contacted the commander of the Navy Order, Bill Schmidt, with their information. Mr. Schmidt, a Navy Vietnam veteran, seemed surprised and decided to conduct an investigation into Theilmann. What he discovered was very revealing about how Mr. Theilmann operated:

*Theilmann was never a member of Naval Order of the United States. Not on NY Commandery roster or mailing list and not on national roster. Apparently he just started showing up, became accepted, acted like he was a member and wore uniform and medals. Who is going to question validity of uniform, rank, medals when someone walks into a group of Navy & Marine Corps veterans and call them a fraud? No one.*⁴

The Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) were contacted and the noose began to tighten on Theilmann's little charade. However, he had opened up a safety valve for himself that would play into the gullible nature of the exopolitics

crowd.

Escape hatch!

When Reality Uncovered had presented its findings, Michael Salla would contact Theilmann and stated on May 24th:

Theilmann explained that he was being coerced, and that as we were speaking, his military records were being expunged in case a fail safe contingency was activated to protect more senior Navy officials involved in the sanctioned leaking of the UN UFO discussions. The fail safe, if activated, would lead to him being arrested for impersonating a military officer and his public discrediting by the mainstream media. It had earlier been explained to me that the fail safe would lead to him serving a short stint in prison before being released, and reassigned for another covert mission involving extraterrestrial life.⁵

Only in Hollywood can one's military records be erased. If Theilmann was who he said he was, he would have plenty of records showing his active duty status. If he were retired, then his DD214 would establish his record of service. Salla apparently bought it and had an excuse to present in case Theilmann mysteriously disappeared.

Picked up or bugged out?

In late June, it was announced on the Open Minds forum that Theilmann had been picked up by the FBI for questioning. Theilmann had managed to contact the Pickerings and explain that this had happened. When Andy Murray contacted the FBI agent he knew was investigating Theilmann, he received the response that Theilmann had yet to be "picked up" for questioning and he not even contacted him. Apparently, Theilmann is not that big a fish and the FBI wanted to get their ducks in a row. It seems likely that Theilmann was trying to "disappear" in order to avoid being exposed as a fraud.

Nails in the coffin

As I was putting the finishing touches on this article, Reality Uncovered presented one more blow regarding Mr. Theilmann. The most damning information came in an e-mail exchange between Vic Campbell, the photographer at the NY naval order, and JeddyHi.



Stephen Broadbent

The high points in this e-mail helped explain much about how Theilmann got involved in the organization without being questioned.

1. Theilmann avoided official membership in the organization by failing to submit his application form. He just kept showing up. When given a form, he would accept it and then later claim to have lost it or imply it had been sent in the mail. Eventually, the general membership would accept his presence as if he were one of their own. Mr. Campbell also emphasized that the leadership in the order would have eventually discovered Theilmann's charade.
2. Theilmann claimed he had been shot down by the Soviets during the cold war over the Pacific. He and his crew all bailed out and were picked up by a submarine. He was awarded the bronze star and purple heart for this action. When Campbell offered to perform a video interview for his podcast, Theilmann responded it was still classified.
3. He became assistant chaplain (which was a honorary and not official position) when the regular chaplain (who was aging and having problems attending) could not attend a luncheon. Theilmann, dressed in whites, was asked to perform as the chaplain and eventually was given the unofficial title.

This all revealed that Richard Theilmann enjoyed pretending to be something he was not. It seems possible that Theilmann started to impersonate a naval officer after his brother's death. Perhaps it was all

the honors his brother received during his career and at his burial that inspired him. One can not say for certain but his antics have stained his brothers service, which is a shame because his brother was a real hero.

Lessons never learned

How many times does it take for UFOlogists to start learning this lesson? As long as there is a will to believe in alien conspiracies and cover-ups, people like Theilmann will continue to thrive off of that credulity. These UFOlogists/Exopoliticians are enablers for these kinds of people by not vetting them. Fortunately, people like those in Reality Uncovered's investigative team are not so easily fooled.

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Twenty-first century UFOlogy IX

MATT GRAEBER ABDUCTED!?

I don't think so, 'cause the lint in my navel is still pretty much intact and kinda fuzzy too!

Matthew Graeber

Welcome to the continuing "SUN-lite" essays I have penned for your reading pleasure and possible UFOlogical enlightenment. A remarkable (say I) collection, evaluation and potential explanation of various UFO historical and unintended hysterical events, as experienced by an independent UFO researcher and field investigator who shamelessly takes you behind the scenes of contemporary Saucerdom and dumber (Take your pick!).

Well, I guess it was bound to happen eventually, I suppose in retaliation for my blatant fits of skepticism and having so much sport with the self-appointed UFO experts I've written about over the years. So, now instead of just reporting on a UFO case investigation, I am (In part) a case, and my reader's are kindly asked to keep an eye on me, lest I be whisked away and marooned on a small purple planet somewhere at the edge of our milky way.

So now, I'll take off the gloves of tenderness, roll up my sleeves and blast off into the wild and wacky world of abduction UFOOlogy...so, damn those photon-torpedoes, warp speed ahead", say !!

NOTE: The following essay contains Pseudonyms to protect the innocent and the not-so-innocent, while paraphrasing UFO witness and researcher commentary, as well as a time compression of events over two decades pertaining to this investigation. It also contains "After thoughts and other reflections upon the reported incident.

The Sighting

Let me take you back in time to a warm spring evening of 1976 in South/Eastern Pennsylvania - where a suburban housewife is waving her husband off to (night shift) work as he exits the couple's driveway.

Joe D'Amico's automobile disappears at the curve along Elm Street. His wife Nora standing (at her half-opened front doorway) looks to the sky and ponders hanging a wash out to dry in the backyard of her home. No threatening clouds are evident...but suddenly, at a second glance, a huge flying object takes up a hovering position no more than fifteen yards away from her.

It's sort of hovered noiselessly, leading edge-down just above the front lawn.



Nora says "If she had a six-foot stepladder I probably could have climbed aboard."

The object is positioned between trees and appears to be constructed of continuous glass panels, which (according to the shocked Nora) lacked any apparent seams. The craft is absolutely silent running, not emitting smoke, flames or rotating. But, it does have blue and white lights and is slowly rocking from side to side. (This is a commonly reported aerial behavior of UFOs.)

The UFO appears to be cigar-shaped but, Mrs. D'Amico only witnessed the craft from her doorway vantage point - although, it is pitched forward, (Leading edge downward) permitting her to clearly see inside the object.

Nora saw two compartments, one with white formica-like counters, a control panel of some sort with colored rectangular buttons, they had some sort of "hieroglyphs" on them, and four high-backed black leather chairs. In the second compartment which had red shag carpeting on its floors and walls. Nora speculates, if she had walked around the object it may have actually been a disk." (?)

At this point during her observation, Nora noticed a man standing peering out the large curved glass panels of the craft. He was quite short, elderly, Italian looking and had a cigar jutting from his mouth. He was wearing a checkered sport jacket and a fedora. He was also shielding his eyes from the intense lighting inside the craft, reflected off the glass panels he was attempting to gaze through. Nora said "He looked like an Indian scanning the horizon for buffalos on a bright sunny day."





Behind this gentleman were two high-backed black leather chairs. The other compartment had four chairs positioned two in front of the others, as in a van. There was a woman sitting in one of the chairs looking straight ahead, she was younger than the man and had a fair complexion. She had auburn-colored hair and wore a floral print dress. She seemed to be in a trance.

Abruptly, a door opened up on the wall directly behind the chairs. It sort of slid open like an elevator door (Swoosh!) That's when the aliens came into view. There were two of them and they had rather large bulbous heads with big round dark eyes.

Their mouths were mere slits, and they had long pointed ears. Mrs. D'Amico also said the aliens wore gown-like garments with rolled collars and flaring sleeves. The gowns went to the floor and she couldn't see the alien's feet, but she got the distinct impression they just floated instead of walking. The gowns were metallic silver in color and the alien's skin tone was quite pale too.

The creatures went straight-away to the woman seated in the high-backed black leather chair... the two of them lifted her out of the seat by placing their hands under her arms. Mrs. D'Amico excitedly called to her young son (Paul, who was lying on the living room floor watching television at the time), to come and take a look at the object. Then, the object sort of lurched forward and shot up into the sky, flying directly over the house. Nora

raced through the dining room and kitchen bursting through the rear door of the home hoping to catch another glimpse of the UFO as it flew away.

However, the strange craft was out of sight by the time she reached the backyard, and Nora went back inside the house wondering if her crying out to Paul had caused the alien's to fly away(?) The TV show young Paul was watching had just started when this UFO incident began. Yet, it was drawing to a close as Nora returned to the living room. Indeed, a full thirty minutes had elapsed but, it seemed she had been waving her husband goodbye only moments earlier.

Even though an entire 30 minutes had slipped by and Mrs. D'Amico was certain no more than five or ten minutes had elapsed during her sighting experience. She told her older son about the craft and also excitedly informed her husband as he arrived home in the early morning hours.

A delayed investigation

Reading a local newspaper article years later concerning UFO sightings which reportedly took place in Pennsylvania, Nora hesitantly contacted the writer who turned the matter over to a fellow who headed up a major UFO research organization's South/Eastern Pennsylvania branch. He came to visit Nora with another gentleman who was an expert on the abduction of humans by alien beings.

Curiously, the writer of the UFO newspaper article (Tom Cleary) felt Nora's letter to him indicated her case was a probably a "CE-II (or, So-called "Close Encounter of the second kind"). However, the abductologist suspected Nora was abducted and taken aboard the craft. This suspicion was prompted by Mrs. D'Amico's apparent loss-of-time during her sighting experience. As you may already know, apparent gaps in time in the UFO reports are often felt to be tell-tale indicators of alien abduction by researchers. Moreover, Nora seemed to have known "too many" details about the craft's interior, said the investigators.

During the interview with Nora and Paul the abduction researcher presented a book with various sketches of alien be-

ings.... as Nora had previously advised him she wasn't much of an artist. The alien mug-shots were perused and Nora was stunned to see one on page four that looked very much like the creatures she had observed through the craft's enormous curved window.

After audio-taping the interview and taking several photographs outside the D'Amico residence, the investigators left, assuring Nora they would be getting back in touch regarding the matter. Days turned into weeks, then months into years. Nora left a number of phone messages and no response was forthcoming from the field investigators. She finally gave up on phoning them entirely, and tried to put the matter behind her but, there was always that nagging question...Had she or, had she not been abducted?

Enter stage left

I entered the case in 1984 when an article concerning Nora's story appeared in a local newspaper along with an accompanying article about the abduction expert who had first interviewed her.

Since, I was already well-acquainted with the UFO group field investigator who accompanied the abduction researcher to Nora's home, I asked him if I could examine the photos, investigative notes and listen to the audiotape of the D'Amico interview. He complied, and I was able to examine all these data while re-opening the case with Mr. and Mrs. D'Amico's full compliance and cooperation.

Numerous interviews took place over the course of three years. I photographed the property, took measurements and conducted several magnetic and radiological surveys. I interviewed Mr. D'Amico (Joe) and his sons for their recollections of what their mother had told her sons about the incident on that long-ago night. I also spent quite a bit of time with Mr. and Mrs. D'Amico attempting to determine the appearance of the creatures Nora had observed in the craft. Joe seemed to have a very good recollection of what Nora had told him about her UFO experience.

Our discussions ranged from family matters to personal interests and hobbies. I wanted to know as much about Nora and

her family as I could since she was the UFO's only residual evidence so-to-speak. I learned Nora had quite an interest in antique furniture and antique jewelry. She was a very good homemaker and cook. She had worked at several jobs outside the home, none seemed to be fulfilling for her. She had discussed several paranormal experiences she experienced in younger days, and her husband felt these seemed to be quite authentic in nature, although, he himself hadn't experienced any of them.

The D'Amico's were Roman Catholics, the eldest son worked while the other was preparing for college. Although, many years had passed since the UFO encounter in front of the house. Nora still wondered if she had been abducted but, was afraid of being hypnotically regressed.

I attempted to dissuade Mrs. D'Amico from conversation along these lines but, the subject did come up occasionally and she finally asked if I would accompany her to a meeting with the abduction researcher who first interviewed her. I discussed it with her husband and he felt it was probably a good idea and might put her mind at ease about her UFO experience.

Joe felt, his wife had a "need" to know, and perhaps this would be the best way to find out what had happened. I was concerned and a bit skeptical about hypnosis and abduction claims for I suspected false memories were also elucidated while a person was under hypnosis. (i.e., if the hypnotist asked leading and demanding questions of the UFO observer, etc.) However, I complied with Nora and Joe's wishes and accompanied her to the abduction expert's home for a regressive hypnotic session.

Hypnosis

After a bit of small talk and his informing us he had reviewed the case file before we arrived, he led us along a narrow stairway to an upstairs room which he used as an office.

Once inside, he directed Mrs. D'Amico to sit upon a recliner-type couch and he sat upon a nearby chair facing her. I was seated at the foot of the recliner within three or four feet of the expert. I turned

on my small tape recorder and the expert informed me I wouldn't need it since he intended to send me a typed transcript of the entire audio taped session.

Then, after Nora was comfortably lying on the couch, a long and repetitious induction technique was initiated. At times, the expert would look away from Nora to see if I too were being hypnotized. I would guess, at least a full ten minutes passed as his soft monotonous voice continued to lull her into a state of total relaxation.

He seemed to be fully convinced Mrs. D'Amico was indeed in a hypnotic trance, and ready to be further questioned about her UFO encounter. I had my doubts about the depth of her relaxation. However, Nora's responsive voice was rather low and somewhat emotionless sounding. At times, the questions would have to be reworded before she answered. In some instances, her answers were vague and more detailed responses were asked of her. In other instances, the expert employed the use of various questioning techniques to obtain more information from her.

I had taken a police department sponsored Forensic Hypnosis class, and read quite a bit about hypnosis before this session so, I was somewhat acquainted with the efforts and rudimentary techniques of the abductologist. One such technique was the imaginary use of a movie-director's Boom Chair in which Mrs. D'Amico was buckled up and hoisted over a curtain to see and report on what was going on behind it. The curtain was the symbolic equivalent of an alien induced memory blockage the expert obviously felt was keeping her from telling him more about her UFO experience.

The questioning continued and indeed more information was obtained. It seems Mrs. D'Amico was directed by a light beam which emanated from the craft to a set of steps leading into the UFO. She followed the light and found herself in a room lying on a tale with several aliens at her side.

A sort of basic and limited medical examination reportedly took place (at areas of her body the alien's were interested) but, the abduction expert was unable to have Nora tell him anything which went be-

yond the touching of her ankles, wrists, arms, shoulders and knees. He turned to me and silently mouthed the words "The blockage is too strong," and sadly shook his head from side to side.

He then reinforced the idea everything was fine and there was absolutely nothing for Nora to fear, before continuing with questions concerning the appearance of the alien examiner and what else he might have been doing to her?

At that point, the expert asked Nora if the alien had looked at her face, and she replied that he had. "Did he look into your eyes?" was a follow up question and it was learned that he had indeed done so.

Then, came a series of questions concerning how close the alien had come in proximity to Nora's face ... and indeed how close his eyes were to hers. The approximate distance grew shorter as the expert repeatedly asked "How close?" and a distance of about six inches seemed to satisfy his inquiry concerning eye-to-eye contact. (Such eye contact is often thought and believed to be a means by which the alien's instill imagery into the minds of the abductees.)

I passed a hurried note to the hypnotist, asking whether or not Mrs. D'Amico might recall if the alien's eyes were smooth like a humans or, appeared to be compound like those of an insect? He negatively waved the suggestion off, and continued with his far more selective line of questioning. I had wanted to see if he were open to alternate lines of inquiry with my hurried note... He wasn't!

At times, his questions were very leading and demanding. He seemed to have a repetitious technique of asking the same question with a different wording structure. By leading and demanding questions, I do not mean to imply if a bank robbery had taken place, he didn't ask the witness if she could tell him what color the bandit's "RED" get-away car was, but at times, he came fairly close to that sort of thing.

Naturally, after a bank robbery, witnesses are questioned by police officials about the crime. The policemen know a bank robbery was committed because some money has been taken. So, the police

have a distinct starting point to work with in regard to asking the witnesses what information they MAY have concerning the crime.

The UFO abduction experts have no such starting point to work with, as anecdotal reports of UFO sightings and experiences with alien creatures has never been proven to have happened. Therefore, UFO abductions lack incontrovertible evidence to establish them as real occurrences. The abductionist's starting point is based purely on the assumption alien space craft are visiting this planet and alien creatures are interacting with humans.

Of course, this is what the experts tell us they have elucidated from the mind of the many abductees they have hypnotized and it's also what they tell the abductees many other abductees have almost unanimously revealed similar accounts to them while under hypnosis. Thereby, informing the abductees about a great deal of hypnotically gleaned consensus and confirmation concerning the reality of their experiences.

In fact, the experts occasionally remind the abductees' it is they that are the "real scientists" ... and the experts are merely the journalists of their "historically significant" experiences. Naturally, after hearing complementary things like this, the abductees' might feel somewhat obligated to continue talking about their unique onboard experiences ... especially, after learning the experts believe they have probably been abducted many times in their childhood and will continue to be in the future.

Add to this, the ever-changing, excitingly new and updated abduction stories found in each abduction book to hit the UFO entertainment market. The ever-changing cast of abduction characters and the pure folly of believing literally millions of abductions have been perpetrated without police authority detection of any kind or, so much as an outraged protest by concerned family members concerning these frequently kidnapped and abused victims.

The abductees' attend so-called Support Group meetings often arranged by the abduction experts and their UFO experiences are discussed quite openly and

candidly without skeptical intervention of any kind.... Bolstering the reports as real contacts with alien beings from another world or, some other space and time continuum. (i.e., totally anecdotal building blocks of a shared delusional past time.)

As Nora was hoisted over the imaginary curtain in the imaginary boom chair she entered a much larger compartment inside the space ship. The lighting kept changing color and she saw several animals there. A cow was one of the animals she claims to have seen.

The combined estimated size of the UFO's compartments seemed to far exceed the overall area of the lawn where Nora said the object had been hovering. But, Nora's size estimates of the object were quite vague and a bit confused so, I cannot assert with any degree of certainty she was probably mistaken, or, fabricating her story.

Alien technicians had carved and removed a large block of flesh from the cow's side and its internal organs were clearly visible. The cow seemed to be oblivious to the surgical procedure and the aliens were busily working with various instruments of some sort.

Shortly after this information was elucidated, and another failed attempt at learning more about Nora's medical examination, the session was terminated and Nora was brought out of the hypnotic state by the abduction expert.

As we descended the stairs to the first floor of the nineteenth-century house, Nora seemed to be even more curious about her UFO experience and she asked many questions of the expert which were met with rather vague and short responses.

I asked permission of the abduction researcher to reproduce some of his audio-taped hypnosis session with Mrs. D'Amico several years later, but he refused, explaining the lady who had typed the transcription of the taped session had made many mistakes. So, I am unable to extend my readers the opportunity to evaluate the abductologist's investigative technique for themselves.

However, I do recall much of Mr. D'Amico's account of her experience was dismissed as "Confabulation," screen-memories and distortions of fact. Nora's description of the alien's having pointed ears, round eyes, finger nails and silver garments were rejected by the abductologist. In favor of the far more popular small "Gray" alien creature he was looking for in the regression testimony. Nora's aliens were much too tall, clothed and they had those weird little suction cups on the underside of their fingers. None of these characteristics were typical of the Grays which had become the creatures of choice in abduction circles.

According to the expert, Mrs. D'Amico was obviously incorrect about these observations of the creature's appearance. She also had the sequence of events mixed up and, these mistakes too, indicated her UFO experience was exactly as the abductologist assumed it to be. It was a perfect example of amateur brain washing via of confirming the reality of the UFO experience (albeit, with modifications of witness testimony which confirmed the self-appointed experts own opinions and beliefs on the subject.)

Second opinion

While I was interviewing Nora a few days after her hypnosis and attempting to search for indicators of a "Dynamic Display" type of explanation for her UFO experience. Nora asked if I knew of another abduction researcher who might be contacted about her case.

I thought this to be a rather interesting turn-of-events and I told Nora of another person who had an entirely different approach to abduction researching but, he lived out west and I would write him on the matter. She was agreeable to this idea and the researcher was equally-agreeable to the suggestion.



As my reader's may recall from previous SUNlite publications, Dynamic Displays are thought to be "Symbolic Dramatizations" of an "emotional tension" existing and adversely affecting the individual at the time of their UFO sighting experience. However, Dynamic Display was ruled out a possible causal factor in Mrs. D'Amico's case.

The abduction researcher from Wyoming, sent Mrs. D'Amico a tape recorded analysis of her case. It was a rather unusual recording in which he put himself into an altered state of consciousness and became both the voice of the questioner and the person being questioned (i.e., Mrs. D'Amico.)

In the analysis, he told of a "previous life" experience in which an American pioneer couple desperately searched for their lost son (as symbolized by the man peering out the saucer's window and other aspects of the UFO report scenario.) Nora and her husband listened to the recording several times but found little in it that seemed to answer their questions and concerns about Nora's UFO experience. While Joe was a devout Catholic, his wife had drifted away from the church over the years. So, Joe found the idea of "re-incarnation" in the analysis to be completely unacceptable... however, Nora was more open to the idea.

Naturally, the couple had experienced some difficulties with their children as they were growing up and, their trials and tribulations of parenting seemed to be a bit more protracted than those of other friends and immediate family members I knew.

Follow-up

Nora's questions about her UFO experience remained unanswered, and I continued my investigation of the incident by searching newspaper archives for TV programming schedules, news clippings from the 70's about UFO sightings in the area, weather information, etc.

The result of this search revealed Mrs. D'Amico's date of the incident did not dovetail with the TV programming scheduling she had linked to the reported incident. Although, the program (On the rocks) starring Tony Danza, had been

preempted by "Specials" several times during its short lived run. (This had apparently occurred with and without pre-published newspaper notifications.)

Then, there was Nora's account of telephone conversation with a person in the area who read of her sighting experience in the newspaper and called her to say they too had observed a UFO on the very evening she had. But Nora's story was published years after her experience, and she hadn't provided investigators or news journalists with an exact date of the incident. So, how could such a remarkable coincident have come to pass?

However, Mrs. D'Amico did recall one other alleged eyewitnesses name, she was the mother of one of her son's friends at school. Our search for that second eyewitness was fruitless, and we discovered no additional reports in the local paper concerning the individuals she mentioned. Although, Joe and the boys do recall that someone had called Nora about seeing a UFO down near the Elm Street reservoir which is located not too distant from their home.

My wife (Grace) had assisted me with the newspaper archive searches and the micro film library was extensive and seemed to be complete. So, we reached the conclusion Mrs. D'Amico probably had a mistaken date for her experience, as we did not consider her to be a hoaxer or mentally unstable individual.

Moreover, if she were simply a seeker of notoriety, why had she not reported her sighting to the press back in 1976 and contacted a major UFO group about the incident immediately?

Epilogue

Over the course of the next decade or so, my wife and I maintained a casual friendship with Nora and Joe. We visited with them at their seaside summer home, enjoyed dinner with them at several area restaurants, and I continued to interview Nora in regard to her UFO encounter. Her story did not change, details did not disappear, nor did they suddenly become embellished with any new material.

Nora's had no additional sightings and has not been abducted repeatedly as the

experts would have one believe is the fate of these poor souls.

The occasional telephone calls we receive from Nora and Joe involve invitations to visit with them at their retirement home out of state, conversations about upcoming trips, shopping and how their fully-grown children were doing. UFOs and abductions are rarely discussed or mentioned at all in recent years.

The most recent message we received was inside a small box which contained very tiny ceramic women's shoes. Grace collects such items and Nora sent them along as a gift. I jokingly call Grace the Imelda Marcos of Plymouth Valley. Grace has about 500 little shoes in her collection.

Naturally, I'm still on the look out (so-to-speak) for an insight into Nora's case but, thus far nothing in particular has been forthcoming.

Did Mrs. D'Amico observe a UFO? Was she taken aboard the craft? I haven't the foggiest idea of what actually may have happened that long-ago spring evening. Perhaps, as Nora says "It's something that just happened, next time I'll have my camera ready!" Perhaps, I too should learn to let it go at that.

Nora seems to be happy with retirement life, she and Joe share several interests. They visit the old house (where their son resides) and area from time-to-time to see their daughter and friends.... That's usually when we briefly get together.

So, there you have it. A brief glimpse into UFO CE-II turned into an abduction case through the delusional mental gymnastics and distortion tactics of unbridled abduction UFOology... which is not scientific, or a truly proto-scientific endeavor. So too, neither is UFOlogy definitively established anything of value to our understanding of the so-called UFO phenomenon... which is still an "anomaly" after sixty-three years of researching and intensive inquiry. Some of which has been quite serious, while many other attempts are obviously pure humbug!

As for Grace and I, we add this to the list of "Unknowns" we've encountered over the years, and find solace in knowing

that we did give the case some good attention. However, just as there are "Cold Case" homicides, bank robberies and jewelry heists. We can't get 'em all... at would be very foolish to think we could.

BTW, Grace hasn't any exceptional interest in UFO investigation but, she's a wonderful wife and companion. She endures the fact I do! I enjoy having her work with me on UFO investigations... She affords me her own marvelous insights and observations regarding the testimony and people involved in the cases. Her insights and empirical skills very often exceed my own. She's a gal with a great deal of common sense, savvy good judgment and people skills too.

Perhaps in time a psychic connection will make sense of the D'Amico case. It may come in an off-hand remark, a visual cue of some sort or an intuitive flash during a casual conversation. But then again, that may just be very wishful thinking on my part.

While the case remains "Open" all these years, Mrs. D'Amico has not been revisited by the abduction researcher or the lead field investigator whom she first met with about her close encounter.

Her story has appeared in brief commentary in the UFO literature (a book authored by a personal friend and colleague of the abduction expert who had first interviewed and hypnotized Nora.) Not because of Nora's case itself, but, because it reminded him she mentioned the woman wearing a floral print dress in the space ship to his pal, and that sounded remarkably similar to another report of a woman wearing a floral print dress while aboard another UFO years later!)

However, there is also the striking similarity of the D'Amico's aliens to that of similarly attired aliens in an early "Star Trek"



episode. The alien's having similar heads, eyes and ears. In fact, similar aliens are depicted in Dr. Edith Fiori's 1989 book "Encounters" on page number 197. Not to mention, the similarity of the red shag rug interior of the craft Nora observed to that of the interior of the space ship depicted in the 1960's sci-fi motion picture "Barbarella" starring a youthful Jane Fonda. Could it possibly be these entertainment productions somehow influenced portions or, aspects in the recollections of Nora's UFO experience (?)

One might also ask, do two very separate UFO reports involving the alleged presence of a woman wearing a floral print dress aboard a craft establish anything about the validity of either case, or, the phenomenon's reality? I think not! The same is true of the possible entertainment production influence on the matter...it's a far reach, a bit more plausible but, still a reach!

I suppose, if one were to go grocery shopping and bump into a old friend in the cereal aisle, the resulting gabfest might cause one to arrive home about fifteen minutes to a half hour later than expected.

Everyone knows some gabfests do not seem to be long-winded affairs, and time does fly when you're having fun and reminiscing.

So, your recollections of walking through the aisles might be interpreted by an abductologist as your passing by rows of jars filled with human embryos aboard the gigantic mother ship. The scanning of the groceries at the check out counter might be interpreted as your being scanned by an alien medical technician while on an examination table

Your recollections of large storefront lighted windows could become the glass portals of the mother ship, while your grocery receipt would be but a screen memory. In fact, any common place scenario can be "Transformed" into a UFO abduction if you are creative enough and can imagine the incident as fitting a specific pattern perceived through the cloudy prism of abductology confabulation and other fanciful mind-altering nonsense.

I am abducted

Now, it's time to tell you of my own abduction experience, a terrifying and traumatic event that I never dared to share with another human being...with exception of my abductologist.

About six weeks after the abductologist had regressed Mrs. D'Amico, I received a telephone call from the field investigator who first interviewed Nora years earlier. At the unexpected request of the abductologist, we were invited to attend an upcoming abduction "support group" meeting at his home.

Nora was quite curious and bit nervous about attending the support group meeting, so, I arranged for Joe to attend the meeting with her, along with my wife and myself. When we four arrived at the residence, several people were already in attendance including the original field investigator, the abductologist, his wife and several other individuals whom I did not know.

I would estimate there were about ten women, three men and a very young girl of about 11 or so also invited, the child was the daughter of one of the female abductees. Most of the women appeared to be in their mid to late thirties and forties. The men were younger, and as comedian W.C. Fields might have observed "Thar were some mighty pretty men thar too!"

The gabfest was already underway, and we quickly sat down and listened to an excited woman tell of her paintings (Which she pulled out of a paper grocery sack) each depicting her alien's (All typical Grays) which were painted in various pastel colors. Another woman started telling of her recent onboard experienc-

es but was cut short by the abductologist entering the room to announce the meeting was cancelled and a party was about to get underway.

It seemed he had recently learned his abduction research manuscript was about to be published in book form and a celebration was in order! The mood was festive, congratulations were extended and words of praise were forthcoming as might be expected. As far as I could determine, Nora, Joe, Grace and I were the only couples present, with the exception of the abductologist and his wife.

The party continued without interruption of the abduction stories, which the abductologist seemed to have a keen interest. One gal told of being taken aboard with her two small children, she had reportedly broken out of her semi-trance state to chastise the kids for being unruly. The abductologist seemed absolutely fascinated by her story. I overheard the unruly kids story in the hall (as I returned from the lavatory) where the woman had button-holed the expert before they returned to the others seated in the living room.

Then, the mother of the 11 year old spoke up and she asked her daughter to tell of her recent abduction experience in which an alien implanted fetus had been removed from the youngster's womb. Additionally, the child had learned while aboard the ship, the alien's were coming to Earth because they viewed us as food! The one-upsmanship of the yarns continued as the stories issued from the mouths of the fawning abductees who were obviously attempting to impress the attentive abductologist.

The youngster told her story with such conviction, Grace and I felt the affair amounted to little more than psychological child abuse and brain washing. Yet, no one present seemed to be concerned about the implications of having the child there as a contributing participant and being exposed to the unbridled banter.

At one point, I managed to speak to the abductologist and tell him of a very disturbing dream/nightmare I once had experienced involving the presence of two strange molten-looking (like globs of lava) creatures in my bedroom. I didn't go

into a lot of detail but, nevertheless, he was able to inform me I had the story all mixed up, out of its proper sequence and my description of the dream creatures were completely incorrect. In his opinion, I had obviously confabulated many portions of my alien abduction.

I found it to be simply amazing this well-educated and obviously very bright fellow was also completely deluded. I had read an earlier book written by him and he presented rather cogent and interesting points about the UFO phenomenon. He even mentioned (at the time of the book's writing), the kooky contactee movements of the 1950's and 60's could be the ruination of serious UFO researching.

Yet, here he was promoting his own contactee-like movement with such vigor and conviction. I felt as if I were in the path of a very loose cannon aboard a listing ship.

Grace, Nora, Joe and I left the affair discussing the experience, as being cult-like and over-the-top. Everyone seemed to agree the affair was very strange but, lacked any chanting or, any traces of overt ritual. We never returned and were never again invited to return.

Let the Abductee beware!

It seems odd that with over twenty-five years of abductions taking place throughout the world, no one has ever thwarted an abduction in progress or documented one on film. Yet, unlike the nuts and bolts UFO researchers of yesteryear the abductologist's have the distinct advantage of knowing exactly whom the aliens wish to kidnap and where they must go to find them.

Yet, these caring UFO researcher's have done absolutely nothing to protect their client's or, their children from repeated abuse at the hands of the aliens. They've filed no missing person police reports, demanded no government intervention on the abductee's behalf...but, they have written more books, made more cable TV deals and spoken at more UFO conventions about their extraordinary researches. As you may recall, "An extraordinary phenomenon 'demands' an extraordinary investigation!" is their motto!

Have you ever pondered the fact that the alien's are said to have the ability to "Switch off" the people they do not wish to kidnap if they are in the company of their intended victim. What's more, the turned off people reportedly have absolutely no recollection of anything unusual going on.

So, if the alien's do have this remarkable ability why not simply switch "everyone off" and leave the abductologists with absolutely nothing to hypnotically elucidate from the abductees?

When I asked Nora's abductologist about the quality of other UFO experts work, he categorically went through the names with disparaging remarks concerning their work, character and mental stability. Only one fellow escaped his verbal wrath, he was his close friend and colleague of his at the time.

Ironically, I mentioned the name of the western abductologist I had been in contact with on Nora's behalf. He felt the fellow was a bit balmy but, nevertheless, "arguably" the nicest guy in UFOlogy.

I couldn't agree more, because the other fellow had read the entire transcript of the D'Amico hypnosis session and never said a disparaging word about its contents or the individual who conducted the hypnotic regression.

Since that time, abductology in general, has suffered several serious blows to its standing in UFO circles - as sex and financial scandals of various types have lead to the dismissal of licenses to practice psychology for a couple of the self-appointed abduction experts.

Of course, not all abductologists are psychologists or trained social working counselors of any kind. In fact, most are not trained and certified hypnotists - and, therein lurks the obvious danger of placing yourself or your children's well-being in their hands. Doing so just provides them with more book fodder, and may lead you and your child more deeply into the darkness of the abduction abyss.

ADDENDUM

Recently, I have obtained information about a disgruntled abductee named

Emma (A pseudonym), who alleges she was mistreated and psychologically abused by an abductologist who hypnotically regressed her (over the telephone) for a period of several years. She further alleges he also hypnotically instilled the nagging thought in her psyche that she suffers from a 'Multiple Personality Disorder' in order to elude detection of their abduction research efforts by hybrid (Half human, half alien) creatures the abductologist believes are roaming about and may be attempting to thwart his efforts. The UFO abductologist, popular author and self-appointed UFO expert is well-known in saucer circles and is considered by many in saucerdom as a top-notch abduction expert. I decided to include this sad story for 'SUNlite fans after reading a brief piece in Jim Moseley's 'Saucer Smear' (April 2010 edition), concerning the disturbing accusations made by Emma.. This is not just another 'he said, she said' controversy. It ties in very well (and, I think confirms) my previously published assertions about the many dangers of abduction researching. I am not alone in this as the late Phil Klass had devoted an entire book to the subject back in the late eighties. (UFO Abduction a dangerous game'—Prometheus, 1988) There have also been professional psychiatric and university sleep research studies which might lead one to conclude abduction experiences are probably related to episodes of False Memory, Fantasy Proneness and nightmarish 'Old Hag assaults' which often produce temporary paralysis and other symptoms found in abduction accounts. Abductions may even be a combination of all three psychical productions and, completely lacking of a so-called singular cause? In other words, abductions may be very carelessly lumped together occurrences by self-appointed abductologists and many ETH believing enthusiasts (?) Unfortunately, this may leave the 'hybrid-fearing abductologist' to his own devices concerning his possible delusional and paranoid psychical status (?)

IFO University: Stars and Planets

In Allan Hendry's UFO handbook, he lists the most common night time objects reported as UFOs are stars and planets. A great number of people during his evaluation of UFOs at CUFOS seemed to be completely ignorant of the night sky. This is nothing new. The USAF knew that people often would state that stars and planets were UFOs. They were often ridiculed for suggesting these as an explanation for a UFO report. This was especially true in high publicity cases. However, the truth of the matter is that planets and stars are big UFO pretenders. One has to just look at the MUFON/NUFORC databases to see it.

Is it astronomical?

There are four items that stand out that will quickly identify most astronomical (stars/planets) objects.

1. Does it return every night in the same general location?
2. Does it slowly descend in the west or does it slowly ascend in the east?
3. Is it visible for long periods of time?
4. Does it appear as the sky gets dark or disappear as the sky gets light?

All of these will identify most astronomical UFO reports. However, one has to consider that witnesses can make mistakes that make it difficult to identify them as astronomical objects.

Scintillation effects

Bright stars often twinkle violently when close to the horizon. This twin-

king can produce changes in color and apparent motion changes. The astronomical term for this is called scintillation and is most common with bright stars close to horizon. However, I have seen the star Sirius do this at very high angles of elevation. The brighter the star, the more likely the effects of scintillation will distort its appearance.

Planets

No other celestial object is responsible for UFO reports than the planet Venus. However, the planets Jupiter and Mars (every two years near opposition) can produce them as well. Planets are usually referred to as star-like by many witnesses but they often can be described as having significant angular size, emitting spikes, and casting shadows. There are many cases of "trained observers" being fooled by the planets Venus and Jupiter.

Probably the best documented sighting that demonstrates this is case number 37 in the Condon study. All sorts of things were done involving the planet Venus. A police officer pursued it and others thought it followed them. A plane was sent to pursue it based on direction by the officers and a radar operator, who claimed to have a radar contact. Dr. J. Allen Hynek would describe the case as "... a fantastic example of how persuasive the planet Venus can be as a nonscreened UFO. Police officers in 11 counties were "taken in" by this planet. It is a case of particular value to psychologists and, one is tempted to say, to those responsible for hiring policemen."¹

Dr. Roy Craig would describe some of the effects observed by the "trained observ-

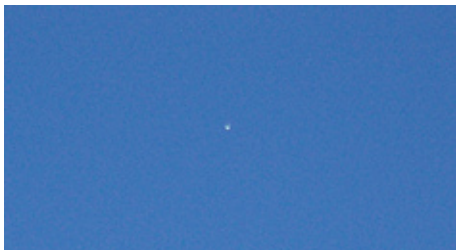


Scintillation effects from a video of the bright star Sirius

ers”, who felt they were pursuing or being followed by the planet Venus:

The apparent pursuit of moving vehicles, or flight from them, is characteristic of any distant object which is imagined to be close to the observer. Because of the object’s great distance, it remains essentially the same direction from the observer as the observer moves. Because of the object’s great distance, it remains essentially the same direction from the observer as the observer moves. Compared with trees or terrain nearby which change in direction as the observer moves past them, the object, retaining a constant direction, does seem to be moving the same speed and direction as any observer who thinks it no more distant than the reference terrain...It is a characteristic of this “pursuit” that the object stops when the observer stops, resumes its motion as the observer resumes motion, goes the opposite direction when the observer reverses direction, and travels at whatever speed the observer happens to travel.²

The lesson learned here is not to sell the planet Venus short and dismiss it simply because an observer indicates motion.

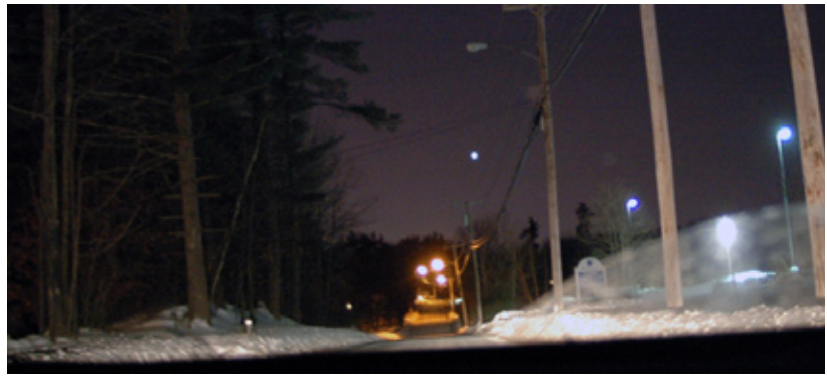


A photograph of Venus taken in the middle of the day

Daylight Planets

Venus and, sometimes, Jupiter can be seen in the daytime with the naked eye if one knows where to look. A person who catches these objects in the sky, will often stare at them long enough to convince themselves they are seeing something strange. Using binoculars can make matters worse as one might be able to see a “half-moon” shape for Venus when it is near 50% sunlit. This can make people think they are seeing some sort of dome shaped object.

Dr. Roy Craig describes an incident early in the Condon study where a UFO was seen in broad daylight by team members.



Is it following me or am I chasing it? Venus while driving down a road looks like it is just beyond the treeline.

The Administrative Assistant, Mary Lou Armstrong, was upset with the local AF base UFO officer who suggested it might be Venus. She felt no scientist could be fooled by Venus. Imagine her surprise when the scientists examined their data and determined they were seeing Venus in the daytime!

Belief over reason

I do not like to use Venus as an explanation for a UFO sighting unless there is good reason to consider it. One has to be pretty sure that the direction, time and description can be matched with a misperception of the planet. Venus has a UFOlogical stigma associated with it, where UFO proponents tend to dismiss it as a valid explanation even when it fits (see Jimmy Carter UFO).

It isn’t only UFOlogists who are hard to convince. Try convincing somebody whose sighting is extraordinary to them is only the planet Venus. An example of this can be found in a recent MUFON UFO report:

First spotted and photographed in November 2008 above my house in Reading, PA. Spotted sporadically throughout 2009. Since March 2010 it appears every

night around 8:20pm and is usually gone in an hour. Don’t even TRY telling me this is VENUS as you did with so many others.³

Apparently, the MUFON investigators keep telling him it is Venus but he remains unconvinced. All of these descriptions match Venus evening apparitions. The photographs submitted with this report look a lot like a star-like object imaged with a high zoom and at a low angle of elevation. There is nothing to dismiss the idea that this is Venus. The power to believe one is viewing a “true” UFO can often override any logic that can be applied.

Notes and references

1. Hynek, J. Allen. The UFO Experience A Scientific Inquiry. New York: Marlowe & Company 1972. p. 205
2. Craig, Roy. UFOs: An Insider’s View of the Official Quest for Evidence. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1995. p. 47
3. MUFON case management system. Started sporadically in November 2008. In 2010 we see it nightly for about 45 minutes. Submitted May 4, 2010. Available at http://mufoncms.com/cgi-bin/manage_sighting_reports.pl?mode=view_long_desc&id=23123&rnd=817281273006783



Venus peeking behind the trees giving the appearance of an aircraft approaching or something closer than 30 million miles.

On June 24th, I took note of one of the stories presented at Spaceweather.com:

SPACE STATION MARATHON: The International Space Station (ISS) is about to put on a remarkable show. For the next few days, the behemoth spacecraft will be in almost-constant sunlight. This means it will shine brightly in the night sky every single time it passes overhead. Some observers can see it 3, 4, even 5 times a night!

The ISS is a great show but, as my IFO university article stated last issue, it also generates UFO reports to people not familiar with it. So, I was not too surprised to read the following headline at the MUFON UFO examiner's blog on June 28th.

Bright light anomalies stealing the UFO headlines lately

Figuring there might be a link, I chose to look at all the MUFON reports submitted between June 24 - 27 to see how many could be ISS sightings. It is hard to do since many of the descriptions are mangled with potential exaggerations. The main thing I was looking for was a night time sighting describing a bright light moving across the sky. This would be my starting point. Out of the 57 reports I read, 24 represented potential ISS sightings. As a comparison, I also sampled the time period of 20-23 June. Of the 35 reports submitted, only 5 were potential ISS sightings.

The next step would be to classify them in a manner that I could quantify. This was more difficult since we don't have exact locations for the witnesses and the witnesses don't normally list a time in their description (the database does not list one either). However, ISS passes for a given area are usually about the same. A person 100 miles away will see something similar around the same time. It might be lower or higher in the sky but the pass would be about the same. So, location was not that critical. This left me with the time question. I decided to basically identify all the passes for that area and see if any fit the description if no time was given. I used "Heaven's above", which used a new epoch when I was evaluating the sighting reports. This meant the times would be a bit off. Considering the issues

International Space Station produces UFO "wave"



with the witnesses not giving exact times, I did not see this as a major issue.

While it was going to be subjective, I decided to use a scoring system for the reports. The higher the score gave a higher confidence in the classification. The scoring was as follows:

5. Those with a time and a good description of direction and speed that matched the ISS.
4. Those with a time that closely matched the ISS but gave a description that was off by less than 90 degrees of azimuth (i.e. the ISS went ENE and the witness said his UFO went north) or the implied direction was consistent with the ISS pass.
3. Those with no time but their description matched an ISS pass for that night.
2. Those with no time but gave a description that was off by less than 90 degrees of azimuth (i.e. the ISS went ENE and the witness said his UFO went north) or the implied direction was consistent with an ISS pass.
1. Those with no time and a vague description which did not eliminate the ISS.

For those with a description that could not be matched to the ISS due to it being vague or particulars ruled out the ISS

(i.e. it went westerly or made some form of hovering/direction change that could not be reasonably explained) I discarded/assigned a score of zero.

After scoring, fourteen reports were given a score of two or less. The remainder were high enough to give me reasonable confidence that they were sightings of the ISS. That is roughly 22% of all the reports during the time period. If only these people read spaceweather.com!

Score	Number
0	3
1	7
2	1
3	5
4	3
5	5

Of course, I don't think it mattered if they actually did read the astronomy websites. One individual claimed they checked "Heaven's above" about 80 minutes AFTER the sighting and said the ISS was over Hawaii at that moment. I guess the witness did not realize the ISS takes about 90 minutes to complete one orbit! Had he looked at the visible passes that night, he would have discovered there was an ISS pass at the time he described and matched his description!

Some of the descriptions were bizarre. One witness described the ISS has having a "pure" light and a color they had never seen. What is an "unpure" light and what color was it if he had never seen the color before? The excitedness effect seems to have played a role in a lot of these observations. Others declared that planes did not seem to notice the object and it did not try avoid airplanes. There was one witness who stated a plane tried to avoid the ISS. Almost all the witnesses noted the ISS had no strobe or navigation lights.

I noticed that in several reports, people declared themselves "amateur astronomers" or professed knowledge about what the space station looked like. Their reports were not very thorough indicating they were actually just amateur "sky watchers".

It is clear that the ISS can produce UFO reports. I am just wondering when UFOlogists are going to recognize this.

A UFO research project

Far too often, I hear about amazing UFO reports that lack any substance. Sure, the witness reported something exotic but was it actually what they saw? Without real time data, it is hard to tell. Wouldn't it be nice if there was a system in place to check out an individual's UFO report? Of course, the only way to do this would be to have an actual video recording of the event. The witness doesn't always have such a device but what if UFO groups did have a system in place to do so. There is a way and it is not too expensive.

The camera

I have a camera that I use often during meteor showers. The camera is a PC-164 sold by Supercircuits and uses a 4mm F1.2 fujinon lens. It is quite effective in performing the task I have for it.

With this setup, I can easily record stars between 3rd and 4th magnitude. Additionally, the lux value of 0.001 allows me to record the outlines of the trees on the horizon from my suburban home. The resolution of the camera is a degree or two. One can barely see the individual stars in the Pleiades on the screen of my television using the 4mm lens. A longer focal length lens would give greater resolution but would also decrease the area of sky covered.

By the statistics that I have on UFO sightings, most events last between 3-10 minutes and happen mostly at night. Additionally, the sizes of UFOs seem to have grown considerably in the past decade. Any massive V-shaped objects could easily be verified with the resolution of the camera. Based on this information, the camera I suggest be used is ideal to re-

cord any UFOs and obtain useful data.

The System

One camera will not suffice for such an endeavor. By my calculations, sixteen cameras equipped with a 4mm lens would be adequate to give all sky coverage. It just so happens that Supercircuits, the maker of the PC-164 also sells the equipment needed. The camera and Fujinon lens is about 200 dollars, which means the total price for 16 cameras is 3200 dollars. The multichannel DVR with DVD burner costs \$2000. The total cost of this system would be \$5200. Supercircuits also sells 16 camera-DVR packages but they are not the PC-164 and those cameras have a lower resolution and are less sensitive to light.

The setup

The concept is to setup three of these systems in a triangular formation with each leg being between 2-5 miles apart. The data that would be recorded could then be converted to true speed, altitude, size (assuming the object is large enough to resolve), and distance. It would be a great leap forward for UFOlogy for less than \$20,000! Imagine what a system like this could have done for Gulf Breeze in 1988-1991, the Phoenix event in 1997, or Stephenville in 2008? It would be real scientific data that nobody could ignore.

Even if no UFOs were recorded, imagine what might be recorded. Perhaps a bright fireball would be recorded and the data obtained from the system could determine where any meteorites could be located. The recovered stones might be worth enough to pay for one, or all, of the systems purchased. All it would take is for each local chapter of MUFON to make an investment of this kind. Surely, the payoff in results

Left: My PC-164C camera with the fujinon lens

Right: A video frame showing the capabilities of this camera in low light conditions. The 3.5 indicates the magnitude of the stars recorded



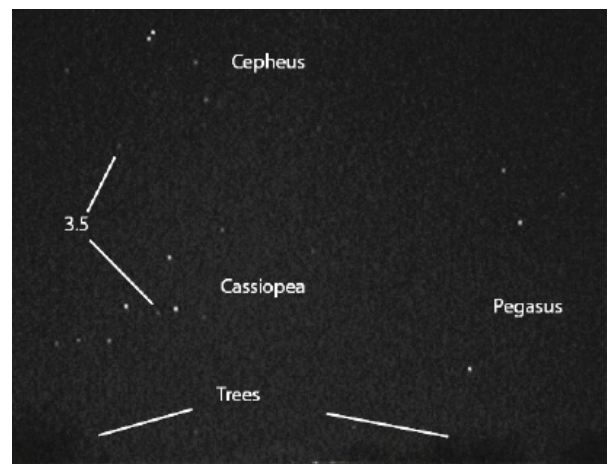
Super circuits 16 camera system DVR. Camera shown does not include the PC-164 camera but that camera can be used on this system.

would be significant if any UFO event were to occur.

Information best ignored?

It is time for UFOlogy to step up and make the investments necessary to produce actual data that is worth something. Many UFOlogists will complain that \$20,000 is way too much money but think about the money it would take if the entire chapter of a MUFON group were to invest. Amateur astronomers invest \$20,000 in their equipment without much of a thought. Why are UFOlogists so afraid to do the same? Perhaps UFOlogists are concerned that they might discover that UFOs are not as numerous as reported to them. Perhaps they may be concerned that the skeptics are right that misperception and hoaxes are the most common source of UFO reports. Perhaps it might not be worth it for UFOlogists to learn such things.

Anytime I hear that UFOlogists complain about lack of scientific interest in their pet subject, my response is put up or shut up. That includes you Dan Aykroyd.



Recently, I have seen Joe Capp discuss the creation of a "UFO spotters club". He then goes on to describe how great his I-phone is in providing applications to identify satellites, stars, and planets. I think it is interesting that my home computer can do the same thing with the right program. I understand his argument but my argument is that some people can't figure out "Heaven's above" to identify the ISS or an Iridium flare. What makes him think they will be able to use an "APP" on a cell phone? I think it is most important that people learn to record their observations in a manner, which allows for proper identification.

A good starting point

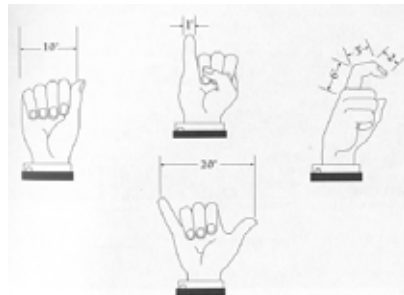
Particulars for any observed event need to be recorded as accurately as possible. This is important to use the remaining data that will be obtained. If your location and time are inaccurate, it makes the rest of the data pretty worthless.

Listing your location as some town or city is just not good enough for data purposes. Almost everyone has a GPS these days. If the person doesn't have one, they can determine the longitude and latitude using google earth or some equivalent program/internet site.

A close approximation of the time usually will do. However, if somebody is performing a planned skywatch, I would expect a time source that is within 5 minutes of actual time. Most cell phones have an accurate clock. Do not rely on a wristwatch or clock unless it has been synchronized first with a known good source.

Finally, there is the description of what was observed. This is the data surrounding the observations. Unfortunately, most observers try and relate their observations to earthly standards. Saying a UFO was moving as fast as a jet or so many miles per hour is essentially a waste of time. A jet can move slowly if seen from far away or very fast if seen up close. The same can be said for size and distance. These are critical observations and, if done correctly, can help solve most UFO cases. For the truly unexplained cases, it could be very critical information.

How to record your UFO observations



From "astronomy for all ages" by Philip Harrington and Edward Pascuzzi p.41.

Size and distance

Any estimates of distance are worthless unless there is something to gauge the distance by. Don't bother to estimate distance unless it passes in front of a fixed object for which the observer knows the distance. Size is another item. It is most accurate to estimate sizes in angular size. This is a difficult concept for many people. Using the moon to estimate angular size is a handy tool. Allan Hendry had several guidelines in his UFO handbook. He used a point source/star, the moon, a distant plane, and several moon diameters across. He added that most were the full moon size or smaller. For the larger UFOs, one can use fingers and hands held at arm's length. See the figure above for angular sizes associated with these measurements.

Azimuth

Most people are familiar with the cardinal points, which works fine for the casual observer but a better system exists. Azimuth is a 360 circle that starts and ends at due north. East is 90 degrees, south is 180 degrees, and west is 270 degrees. All the other directions would be between those points. For instance, Northeast would be 45 degrees azimuth and West-Northwest would be 292.5 degrees. This system, if used correctly, can be used to arrive at some precise values that may be useful in determining what was seen.

Elevation

This value is also critical. Something on the horizon is at an elevation an-

gle of 0 and something directly overhead would be at an elevation angle of 90 degrees. Halfway up is 45 degrees. The remaining values can be approximated based on these known values.

Tools

I created the following little alt-azimuth viewfinder for tracking objects like satellites. It can be quite accurate if set up correctly. Setting the azimuth to 0 by pointing it at north and the elevation at 0 by making it level with the horizon. After that it should work great. It is inexpensive as well. After a UFO event (or during) one can obtain the values by pointing it in the locations of the sky one saw the UFO appear and disappear. Using it to take some star measurements, the range of error was about +/- five degrees. This is a reasonable range of accuracy and are far better than the rough guesstimates an observer without such a device so of-



ten makes.

Which style of UFO "spotting"?

These values can help identify any UFO and provides valuable data if two or more observers in different locations obtain this information. From these values, one can determine actual speed, size, distance, and altitude!

If Capp wants to start his "UFO spotters club", let's hope he does it right and gathers the right kind of data. Otherwise, he is just duplicating the failures of past UFO groups.

UFOs on the tube

Weird or what? Ghost Ship

The first part of the show dealt with the Stephenville UFO incident and that is all I am going to comment about.

The show started off with the usual presentation of the witnesses telling their story. They took two of the most prominent witnesses from the event, Steve Allen and Lee Roy Gaitan. They told their stories and I noticed that Mr. Allen seemed to describe the sighting in religious terms. He stated on one occasion that it was "like a biblical event" and then referred to the jets pursuing the UFO(s) as the "end times". I do not like to be critical of people's religious views but when it comes to reporting something objectively, one has to put those kinds of beliefs aside.

After the witnesses described what they saw we got a brief but informative discussion about misperception by Dr. Allison Sekuler. She pointed out how the mind can affect a person's interpretation of what they saw. This was followed up by James McGaha, who discussed the F-16 activity in the area and how it could be interpreted as UFOs. While it was well done, it focused a lot on flare activity that probably happened to the southwest of Stephenville in the Brownwood Military Operating Area (MOA). I think the show could have improved on this.

They could have shown what F-16's look like flying at night from a distance. By playing Steve Allen's description (as it appeared in the NUFORC database) of the event one could see the similarities. Had they shown a map and direction of the sightings in association with the flight path of the F-16s entering and leaving the MOA, it could have clearly shown what was seen that night. The program did not do this and attempted to downplay the F-16 explanation.

Steve Allen was allowed to voice his complaint that the USAF initially denied F-16 activity. This was apparently a SNAFU by the Public Affairs Officer (PAO) at Carswell. Had the show talked to the PAO at the time, I think it might have cleared up

the whole situation but it is much better to perpetuate a conspiracy than demonstrate there is no big deal here. On a positive note, they did allow James McGaha to address this and he made a good case that it was a simple error in their initial response to the UFO story.

The show could have stopped at this point and I would have been satisfied about the program. Instead, the producers of the show presented another theory by Steven Douglass. I am not certain as to his qualifications on the subject of military research because what he described next was a bit far fetched even for a UFO program.

According to Douglass, the military has large stealth blimps that fly at 200,000 to 300,000 feet and monitor civilians in the United States. There are a lot of things wrong with this theory. Why bother with a huge stealth blimp, when the present line of stealthy surveillance craft would be adequate. Flying at 200,000 to 300,000 feet would also introduce resolution problems with cameras. The final flaw is that there is absolutely no evidence that such craft actually exist.

Douglass then went on to state that what happened at Stephenville was that one of these blimps malfunctioned and was descending. Fearing it was going to be seen, the US military decided to send out F-16s to put on some sort of air show for the people of Stephenville so they would not notice the stealth blimp. In my opinion, Mr. Douglass is a conspiracy theorist and his theory has no merit. Until he can demonstrate that such a craft exists, then his theory is no better than those claiming the lights were attached to an alien spaceship. I doubt that they even bothered to talk to McGaha about it to see what his opinion was.

What could have been a reasonably good representation of what happened that night turned into an attempt to present some wild conspiracy theory, which had absolutely no evidence. The show failed the instant they let Douglass speak.

Book Reviews

Buy it! (No UFO library should do without it)

Watch the skies - Curtis Peebles

I think this book best documents the history of the American UFO phenomenon from 1947 to the time the book was written in 1994. His description of how events affected UFOlogy and allowed the UFO myth to evolve is the highlight of this book. Make sure you add this to your library.

Borrow it. (Worth checking out of library or borrowing from a friend)

The UFO Controversy in America - David Michael Jacobs

This book is also an informative presentation of UFO history and can be considered similar to Peebles book written from the proponent point of view. Written in the mid-1970s, his forecast of how scientists would be running to study UFOs did not occur. While this is listed as a "borrow" book, it could easily have been a "buy it". Consider it for part of your library.

Bin it! (Not worth the paper it is written upon - send to recycle bin)

UFO Briefing document - Don Berliner with Marie Galbraith and Antonio Huneeus

This book is very disappointing since it promotes some poor UFO cases as evidence of UFOs/alien visitation. If a case later becomes explained, it demonstrates that there are problems with the research. This book promotes the Canary Island UFOs of 1976, which turned out to be nothing more than ICBM test launches from US Submarines. There are other cases in this book that are just as questionable. The authors also provide us with the usual quotes by various government/military officials. Some of these are taken out of context. The section describing the "characteristics" of IFOs and UFOs was way too short and was completely worthless in my opinion. I should have been warned by the "Whitley Streiber's hidden agendas" title on the top. Don't bother to pick this one up even if they are giving it away.